

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

VOL. LX.]

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, 17TH DECEMBER, 1904.

No. 25

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Epitome	445
Leading Articles:—	
Beachcombers	446
Anglo-German Relations	446
The Lagging British-Chinese Corporation	447
Shanghai	447
"Squeeze"	447
Hongkong Jottings	448
Hongkong Legislative Council	448
Hongkong Sanitary Board	449
Supreme Court	449
Marine Magistrate's Court	450
Alleged Murders by Europeans	450
The Hongkong High-Level Tramways Co., Ltd.	452
Green Island Cement Co., Ltd.	452
The Nippon Yusen Kaisha	452
Collision in the Harbour	452
Inquests	453
St. Andrew's Church	453
Correspondence	453
Shanghai Water Supply	451
\$10,000 Ball Refused	454
Chinese Neighbourly Amenities	454
Li's Guilt or England's	454
The Chinese Emperor's Desire to Learn	454
The Reported Arming of China	455
The Weihaiwei School	455
"Shrewsbury" Wrecked	455
New Roman Catholic Church	455
Further Fires	455
Christianity in S. China	456
Jurors in Trouble	456
H.E. The Governor and His Brothers	456
Poor Chinese Orphans	456
Hongkong Gun Club	456
Hongkong	457
Far Eastern Items	457
Trade Items	457
Commercial	458
Shipping	460

BIRTHS.

On 11th October, at Copenhagen, the wife of K. H. v. LINDHOLM, of a daughter.
On 26th November, at Wuchang, the wife of the Rev. HENRY ROBERTSON, of a daughter.
On 2nd December, at Hangchow, the wife of T. GAUNT, of a son.
On 6th December, at Shanghai, the wife of F. SCHWYZER, of a son.
On 7th December, at Shanghai, the wife of ROBERT SUTHERLAND, of a son.

DEATHS.

On 3rd December, at Shanghai, LEONARD S. SANDERS, aged 28 years.
On 4th December, at Shanghai, DAVID BEALE, late marine engineer in the service of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha, aged 58 years.
On 4th December, at Shanghai, DZAU KIT FOON (Francisco Kariles DZau).
On 4th December, at Weihien, JANE HELENA, wife of E. W. BURT, of the English Baptist Mission, Shantung, aged 32 years.
On 5th December, at Shanghai, HERMANN ADOLF AHRENS, aged 40 years.

Hongkong Weekly Press.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.

LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The French Mail of the 11th ultimo arrived, per the ss. *Dumbea*, on the 14th inst.; and the English Mail of the 18th ultimo is expected to arrive, per the ss. *Malta*, sometime to-day.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The Freemasons are busy installing new officers.

There have been more fires, with as usual, suspicious circumstances attending them.

The Supreme Court has spent the week arguing the merits of a tedious Chinese land claim.

The Hongkong One Design Sailing Club has re-christened itself the Corinthian Yacht Club, and appointed Dr. Clarke its commodore.

In China generally, things have been quiet. There appears to be very little basis for the recent alarming rumours of a recrudescence of Boxerism.

The fete of the Roman Catholics in the Colony has provided entertainment for large crowds of both Chinese and Europeans, going round admiring the illuminations each evening.

The arrival of the recently released steamer "Calchas" from Vladivostok aroused some interest, which was soon allayed by the refusal of the officers or crew to talk of their adventures.

The Shanghai Municipal Council, in its zealous crusade for social purity, committed an irregularity which offended the Spanish Consul, and had to apologise to the Consular Body in consequence.

The meeting of the Sanitary Board at Hongkong was void of any matter calling for discussion, the principal item of business, referred to committee, being the need of an extra market for Chinese butchers, &c.

At Shanghai shareholders of S. C. Farnham Boyd and Co. Ltd. are still wrangling about the negotiations with the London syndicate. The malcontents are rather behindhand. The directors having obtained a decisive vote, present criticisms must be futile.

The week just over has been marred in Hongkong by the discovery of a singularly brutal crime. Three European "beachcombers" have pleaded guilty, in the most callous terms, to the murder of a Chinese sampan woman and her child, under circumstances fully reported within.

The Peak Tramway is paying \$15 per share, equal to a five per cent dividend on the present market value of the shares. The profits for the year were \$46,239.91. The Company is opposing the new firm's application to have a terminus on the same part of the Peak.

The share market in Hongkong was rather interesting during the week, Hongkong Cottons particularly attracting buyers. They reached \$13 very quickly, the appreciation being largely due to the favourable reports of cotton crops, about which we had special telegrams in the *Daily Press*.

The Prize Court trial of the steamer *Veteran* (formerly the *Thales*), which was captured near Kiaochow Bay, closed on 6th December. The Prize Court decided that the vessel should be confiscated. The captain (a German subject) and four officers (all German subjects) and 24 Chinese crew were released. The cargo aboard the steamer consisted of beef, skins and boots, etc., amounting to over one million dollars.

The war interest centered once more on the fate of Port Arthur, of the capture of which we had numerous premature reports on the 15th instant. They were caused by the fact that the Japanese have been making strenuous efforts to dispose of the remnant of the Fleet before the arrival of the Baltic squadron.

The new survey steamer *Fathomer*, built at the Kowloon Docks to the order of the American Government, for service around the Philippine Islands, underwent her trial trip Dec. 12th. First of all she went over the measured mile and then out to sea towards Macao. Altogether she was eight hours under steam, and during four hours at full speed averaged 10.6 knots—over half a knot more than contract speed.

A plan is on foot among certain wealthy Chinese to stem the tide of emigration of coolies abroad by opening to agriculture some 500,000 mow of land now lying fallow and uncultivated in the district of Hsuwenhsien, in Leichou prefecture, Kwangtung province. The lands in question are said to be rich and suitable for all kinds of cereals, and the cultivation of the sugar cane as well as hemp. There are also other extensive tracts of fine arable land in other parts of Kwangtung province, which are at present uninhabited, also to be thrown open to immigrants as soon as matters can be arranged.

There is a Chinese rumour at Shanghai to the effect that a rich merchant from Tientsin has bought ten native junks for 50,000 taels for a certain foreigner. The same merchant is now trying to get crews amongst the desperadoes under Fan Kao-tao in Shanghai, offering high wages, and intends to load the junks with beef, mutton, rice and flour and other provisions. These junks had been presumably cleared for Chefoo, but as a matter of fact they are destined for Port Arthur. Five of the junks have already left Woosung. Another junk with provisions aboard left Woosung on the 6th instant.

The Board of Revenue Bank, an institution which has been occupying the minds of the officials of that Board for the past eighteen months, is, according to a recent despatch from Tientsin, to be started in the middle of February next, at Peking. It is proposed that Chinese merchants and capitalists shall deposit their money with the Bank, which will also establish branches throughout the whole empire. This will enable money to be transmitted from one place, to another with ease, either by post or telegraphic transfer. The Board of Revenue will as a beginning deposit 500,000, a sum which is to be increased each year.

There is a plan on foot, according to native reports, to secure a monopoly of the salt that is shipped from Hangchow to the Shanghai Settlement. Two native ex-pastors are attempting, with the aid of influential foreigners, to get the right to control the salt market of Shanghai. They say that now the salt is being smuggled into that place and the Government is failing to get the revenue. It is not reported what offer is being made to the officials, but "the foreigner who uses his influence in Shanghai" is to receive 300 taels per month for the rest of his life and the one who wins over the Governor to the plan is to receive a pension of 100 taels per month.

BEACHCOMBERS.

(Daily Press, 12th December.)

If the secretary of the London Mendicity Society may say, as he has just done, that of London's 75,000 street beggars, "all are undeserving," we may be permitted, without being taxed with want of feeling, to suggest that of the four hundred beachcombers on the Chinese coast, most are undeserving likewise. Lately, there have been letters addressed to various papers in Shanghai and Hongkong, by members of the unemployed class so designated, which seem to indicate that a new "dodge" to foster shiftlessness and idleness has been lighted upon. A touching letter is penned, explaining that the writer is absolutely unable to obtain work. The fact that immediately after publication of such letter, some person comes forward with an offer of employment, should be regarded as an argument that the difficulty of obtaining a situation is not so great as these fellows make out. The fact is, they want the fruit to fall into their open mouths. They want a coolie to carry for them the tools of their trade. They are not genuinely in distress, or they would do a little more of what our American cousins call "hustling." Only those who have seriously attempted to reduce the beachcomber nuisance can understand the true inwardness of the question now attracting such general attention. Many undesirables are shipped away, but faster than they can be provided for, others are coming. The evil apparently thrives on the remedy. We have seen how, by the confessions of some of the worse beachcombers, both Hongkong and Shanghai have a reputation for being charitable. This is not a reputation under which we should smirk self-satisfiedly. At the best it means that we are too prone to rid ourselves of the pesterers by means of the eleemosynary dollar; or that we have some feeble notion of maintaining the prestige of the white man with the yellow by covering up our social sores. The last idea is a mistaken one, for so long as a philanthropic or grandmotherly government insists on persuading the yellow man that he is our brother and fellow subject, he will not see anything to respect in our immaculate whiteness. Philosophically and ethically, especially if we be at Home, we are bound to disapprove the attitude of those colonists who (as e.g. the Australians) draw a colour line. Closer acquaintance with the facts introduces the question of expediency, and different views. On the other hand, if the yellow man is our brother, why should we contemplate with indifference, or comparative equanimity, the yellow pauper; and be so greatly exercised in mind because a shiftless White is in temporary straits?

Our opinion is that philanthropy is wasted, and worse than wasted, on these ne'er-do-wells; for we are convinced that no really honest, industrious, and ordinarily capable man need long fail to find some honest employment in a community as large as that of Hongkong or Shanghai. For those who are not honest, or not willing to work, why should we be squeamish? Let our municipality or Government provide, not mere houses of detention, but "work"-houses in the real sense of the word, making the inmates earn by a positive putting forth of energy the food and shelter they pretend is all they need. In a very short time, the regular professionals would disappear; and we should acquire a more sensible reputation that would keep away the humbugs who at present flock to our ports. It is dangerous, and it is wrong, to encourage the numerous

worthless ones for fear that there might be one worthy. Let the flood of practical administration come. Any NOAH of a beachcomber there may happen to be amongst the ruck will soon find his Ark.

ANGLO-GERMAN RELATIONS,

(Daily Press, 13th December.)

Whatever opinion we may form as to the sincerity of Count von BUELOW's appeal to the British public, his recent declaration published in the *Nineteenth Century* cannot be looked upon otherwise than as a striking testimony to the good sense of the British nation at large. If, however, the German Chancellor find cause to deplore the recent unfriendly attitude of the English Press generally towards Germany, we can assure him that it is no less a cause of sincere regret in England, and we are glad to see that this has apparently been the position taken up by the Home Press. Quite as sincerely as Count von BUELOW himself, the English nation holds that a war between England and Germany would be a monstrous crime, which would moreover indicate ruin to both nations, and would benefit only the rivals of each, who would naturally proceed to avail themselves of the blunder to capture without the necessity of firing a shot the markets of both. Had, however, Count von BUELOW been a diligent student of the course of British public opinion he would have seen that in this particular he was merely reiterating views such as have throughout been the actuating groundwork for those recent unfriendly comments of the British Press, which have inspired the Imperial Chancellor's latest declaration. Friendship towards Germany is in fact traditional in England for at least the greater part of the last four centuries. It shone conspicuously in the wars of the seventeenth century, and was emphasised in the great struggle against NAPOLEON where German and English soldiers fought side by side in many a hard won field. Englishmen have not forgotten this, and are quite prepared to do it again. As essentially commercial nations the interests of the two are bound up with peace, and there is nothing in the commercial rivalry of the two that could not be better met by peaceful measures than by invoking the horrors of war. Still that there has been a serious estrangement between the two is undeniable, and it would be well did Count von BUELOW probe a little more closely into the underlying reasons.

They are in a few words, not at all commercial, but have much deeper foundations. Composed, as Europe is, of a number of independent states in a similarly high position of civilisation, it stands to reason that there are always to be found by the statesman who goes out of his way to sow discord an opportunity for disputes of greater or lesser intensity; the most vulgar, and longest abiding of these, is the lust for territory, merely for territory's sake. It is evident that in a completely populated continent, such as is Europe, no opportunity exists of extending frontiers without committing acts of wanton aggression; and such cannot be submitted to by any self-respecting nation without taking up arms in self defence. The effects of such aggression do not alone concern the attacked country, but are apt to be far reaching, and at all events to seriously affect the interests, commercial or political, of all the neighbours. Such a state of affairs occurred in 1864, when Germany crossed the Eider and took possession of Sleswig on a pretext, regarding which Lord PALMERSTON at the time stated only three men in Europe ever understood it. Two of these he added

were dead, and the third, himself, had for gotten. In effect the occupation of Sleswig did not produce a universal war, but it created very general disquietude. Again Germany provoked a war with Austria, and this led to the reorganisation of Germany. It too did not provoke a European war, but the new arrangements were not come to without producing a considerable feeling of insecurity on the part of the other Powers. Probably in both these cases there were deep seated causes at work, far deeper than the mere ambitions of rulers or ministers, and this seems to have been the reason why, consciously or unconsciously, the other states in the end coincided in the new arrangements. Then followed the great war with France, which ended in the addition of Elsass and Lothringen to the German Empire. We are not going to sit in judgment on that acquisition; none of the other states protested, and most looked upon it as inevitable. Its moral effects upon Germany were, however, not good, for from that time Germany has, in the opinion, at least, of most of her neighbours, exhibited symptoms of earth hunger. Nor has she had the virtue of keeping the disease to herself. Germany towards the close of the eighteenth century got herself mixed up in a very discreditable affair by joining in the partition of Poland. It is true it has brought her little advantage, but the odium always resting on the perpetrator of a dark crime remains still hanging over Germany, and she has done little or nothing to remove it. In a comparison of criminality in the case doubtless the greater weight of the crime rested with Russia, and Russia has since by her conduct towards Poland deserved at the hands of Europe still further reprobation. It is generally a wise precaution before coming on too intimate terms with a man to enquire into his associates, and it is often in the case of nations necessary to take similar precautions. Now it unfortunately happens in the case of Germany that her most intimate friend turns out to be this same Russia. We have the testimony of Germany's great statesman BISMARCK, that while he was Imperial Chancellor and outwardly a close ally of Austria, and bound more especially to protect her against any encroachments of Russia, he was actually plotting with the latter the partitioning of his ally. It is true that this was one of the things that on the accession of the present Emperor led to the disgrace of BISMARCK, but his conduct has never been openly repudiated, and to the present moment Russia is permitted to appear as the bosom friend of Germany, rather than hurt whose feelings she showed herself as ready to repudiate her engagements with England as formerly with Austria. Still, if there were any sign that Germany was disposed to cultivate a little more friendly relations with England, it is not the custom of the latter country to refuse the hand of fellowship, but as if to accentuate her former policy we find her actually entering into new engagements with Russia. An understanding which in Germany itself is held a public scandal has long existed for the rendition to Russia of all political refugees. Unless in the case of actual dependence it is difficult to interpret such an agreement except as identifying the policy of the two countries. More recently this has been supplemented by an engagement to surrender military deserters. Again under ordinary circumstances Germany keeps at Russian headquarters a military attaché; this of course is the ordinary practice of all civilised nations, and calls for no comment. But Germany is not content with this, but confides her attaché personally

to the Russian army, as himself a Russian officer, and as such bound to be under the Tsar's actual orders, and so giving German official approbation to all military operations of the Russian army. This it is true may not mean much, and doubtless the Tsar would heed as little the German Emperor's remonstrances as he would those of the world at large. Still no independent state would care to endorse beforehand every detail of Russian strategy, and unless Germany intend to proclaim abroad that she is ready to do this the appointment of such an officer is difficult to explain. These are only feathers, and of themselves of no weight or importance, but feathers are the best means for indicating the way the wind is blowing, and Germany by her rather conspicuous display of these petty attentions seems, unconsciously perhaps, to intimate to the world how consonant with her own are Russia's methods. These are the real difficulties, and not any unfriendliness on the part of Great Britain, that keep apart the two countries.

THE LAGGING BRITISH-CHINESE CORPORATION.

(Daily Press, 14th December.)

While Japan has with wonderful energy and resource prosecuted the deadly struggle with Russia for the maintenance of her national life and the continuance of her commerce, she has not confined her energies to mere military activities. She has, with quiet perseverance, proceeded with the work of the construction of the Seoul-Fusan Railway in Corea, and this line was actually completed on the 10th ultimo, and it will be formally opened throughout on the 1st January next. It will, however, be running provisionally before that period, and is probably open to traffic now. The Sanyo Railway Company has decided to establish a steamship service between Shimonoseki and Fusan in order to connect their railway with the Seoul-Fusan line, and two steamers of 1,500 tons have been ordered and will be ready for service about the middle of next year. The distance between Tokyo and the capital of Corea is about 1,118 miles, and has hitherto taken about a week to cover; it will, however, now be possible to accomplish it in some fifty-six hours. The Japanese Government have every reason to congratulate themselves on the completion of this important undertaking. It brings Seoul into much closer touch with Japan, and will tend to a great development of intercourse, political, social, and commercial. It will also, in the event of a foreign foe threatening the Hermit Kingdom, render it comparatively easy for Japan to throw a military force into Seoul to assist her neighbour. Had this railway been constructed two years earlier it is just possible that Muscovite pretensions in the Land of the Morning Calm might have been somewhat moderated, and the present war obviated or at least delayed. It will at any rate serve to strengthen Japan's suzerainty or protectorate over Corea, whichever it may be styled, and help to warn off any other aspiring would-be over-lord. With the magnificent stand made by the Japanese so far against the whole might of the Tsar, as an object lesson for the civilised world, it is unlikely that any other Power will have the temerity to try and snatch the palm of victory from the hands of the Japanese.

Despite the fact that they have been so seriously handicapped in this work by the warlike movements in progress, the Japanese contractors and engineers engaged upon it have managed to complete the line in less

than the contract term, about a month and a half having been saved on the time allowance. This shows what can be done if railway constructors are in real earnest and intend to get a work completed within a given period. Let us hope that the Kowloon-Canton Railway will not only be commenced soon, but that its construction will be pushed forward with all the energy of which the concessionaires are capable. The newly proposed line from Canton to Macao is, we hear, to be pressed on with all possible expedition, and as the bulk of the capital for this railway is to be found by Chinese we may be pretty sure that, in the event of its being completed before the Kowloon-Canton line, the syndicate will not rest until it has communication with a deep water port. We would again warn the British-Chinese Corporation that, if they really wish or intend to build this railway, the time for doing so has more than arrived. It is passing rapidly; the weeks grow to months and the months to years, and it will soon be six years and a half since the agreement of 1898 was signed for the construction of the Kowloon-Canton line. More than a year has passed since Sir HENRY BLAKE, when bidding farewell to the Colony, uttered his memorable warning on the danger of delay, and since then, we believe, repeated representations have been sent Home on the subject. To the onlooker it seems indeed passing strange why there should be a week's delay when the vast importance of time is considered in relation to this enterprise. It also strikes us as nothing short of marvellous that the Imperial British Government should permit such extraordinary delays, in view of the momentous issues which may follow them. Most Governments would long since have relieved the Corporation of their responsibility in the matter.

SHANGHAI.

(Daily Press, 15th December.)

Probably there is no other community in the world that abides under such an anomalous system of government as that of Shanghai. Some of the more peculiar features of the Settlement have recently been emphasised by a police prosecution (unimportant in itself) of a suburban hotel which is believed to be a gambling hell and a resort of bad characters. The defendant tenant was a Spanish subject, and the Spanish Consul strongly resented an irregular procedure adopted by the Municipal Police in order to ensure a successful raid on the premises concerned. They acted on an old warrant, and did not trouble the Spanish Consul with a notification of the date they intended to raid the place. Apparently the suggestion is that if they had given formal notice, the news of their intention would have leaked out. The point is that the Consular Body, when appealed to, considered that the Spanish Consul's prerogatives had been jeopardised, and (as a local paper put it, with but little show of reason) the principle of individual liberty threatened. That an irregularity had been committed was admitted, and an apology was tendered by the Council. There is far too much individual liberty at Shanghai, in our opinion; the only people who do not get a fair share being the British, who made the place. For the benefit of the community, the Municipal Council employs a big staff of police to maintain law and order, and it is notorious that when a non-British culprit is caught, and taken (as he must) before his own

Consul, the police have small hopes of securing a conviction. In the case mentioned, there seems to have been no doubt that a prosecution was justified. The defendant's Consul had practically admitted it previously; but like other foreign Consuls at Shanghai, he appeared to consider that his correct rôle was that of counsel for the defence. The Municipal Council is thus placed in a very anomalous position. It is practically the authority appointed of the people, by the people, for the people; but as its *locus standi* is not beyond all question, its decisions and actions in many instances can readily be overruled by a body of officials, who in turn can do little without ministerial advices from Peking. All this does not alter the also notorious fact that the Shanghai Municipal Council is not a particularly wise or able body. In this prosecution referred to, the house proceeded against is outside the municipal boundary, and an impartial observer has to conclude that the Council had in view the question of revenue as well as the question of morality. It is decidedly quaint to hear high-toned pronouncements of the evils of gambling from an authority which permits lotteries and other gambling affairs to be openly conducted within its precincts. It is also discreditable that a body which issues licences to and receives payment from immoral institutions within its borders should lay stress on the fact that the bad characters it shelters frequent the hotel outside, which was the object of its recent attentions. There was a serious allegation recently, during the crusade of social purity, that certain proceedings had been dropped in order to avert a scandal implicating highly-placed citizens, and to this we have as yet seen no definite reply. It must be admitted that in Hongkong, the liberty of the subject is not nearly what it is at Home, and that there are insurmountable reasons for it; but the Hongkong resident appears to have not the slightest reason to envy the status of the Britisher in the so-called "Model Settlement" of Shanghai.

"SQUEEZE".

(Daily Press, 15th December.)

RECENT rumours to the effect that the Chinese Government is coquetting with the idea of raising a further foreign loan, to tide it over immediate difficulties connected with the payment of the indemnities, must revive interest in the recent proposals of Sir ROBERT HART, and the prospects of any augmentation of revenue. On Sir ROBERT HART's scheme, so strongly opposed by the retrograde CHANG CHIH TUNG, we have already made considerable comment. Of the hopelessness of expecting any real reform to follow such excellent schemes, much more might be said. Never could the state of Denmark, even in HAMLET's time, have been so rotten as that of China, which ought to be a rich and smiling country with all its natural resources and all its patient, industrious people, but which is instead a land of chronic poverty and suffering, due entirely to the fact that a lot of conscienceless officials are batten on the miseries of their poorer brethren. If the cryptic New Testament saying, that to the rich man shall be given, and from the poor man taken away even that which he hath, has meaning anywhere, it is in China. Sir ROBERT HART talked of appointing "ten picked officials" to assist in inaugurating his administrative reform scheme. It would be difficult to see any advantage in ten picked from the all bad. They would in all probability be ten "pickers" instead, picking and stealing as usual from that which should go to the

Government. It is not so long since that the Commissioner of Customs at Ichang, Mr. F. S. UNWIN, made a report which included an exposure of the abuses of revenue collecting in China by native collectors. In the case of the Ching-chou Ch'ao Kuan, an institution under the Board of Works, the effect of allowing the Commissioner to control the collection of port dues on junks, and duties on timber, was an immediate increase of over twelve thousand taels, and in the following year (1903) an increase of twenty-five thousand taels over the average amount previously accounted for by the native staff. This does not necessarily mean that more had been collected, but that less, or rather no, "squeeze" had been deducted. At Shasi it was the same. When the dishonest native system was supplanted by the honest HART administration in 1902-3, Mr. C. C. STUHLMANN, the Commissioner there, was able to report an immediate increase of thirty per cent. If it were not that the phrase "integrity of China" really implies "integrity of Europe," it would be the obvious duty of the foreigner, acting on the principle of the greatest good of the greatest number, to step in and purify China, only allowing the Chinese to resume charge of their national heritage when they have learned the lesson of pure government and got rid of the classes who at present make the masses suffer terrible impositions.

HONGKONG JOTTING.

12th December

"Dorothy" made her positively last appearance at the City Hall on Saturday night. The audience was thin. The performers all showed the improvement due to the practice and familiarity, but many of them looked bored. The chorus, or parts of it, atoned by being obtrusively frisky. Most of the lady performers received enormous bouquets, "Priscilla" (Mrs. Hall-Wright) receiving seven or eight. There is no need to write more of individual performances.

For the benefit of "Jane," who takes "Dorothy's" place, copies of Kipling's comment on Hongkong theatricals should be handed round. He says:—

"They have amateur theatricals and they quarrel and all the men and women take sides and the station is cleaved asunder from the top to the bottom. Then they become reconciled and write to the local papers condemning the local critic's criticism. Isn't it touching? A lady told me these things one afternoon, and I nearly wept from sheer homesickness. 'And then, you know, after she had said that he was obliged to give the part to the other, and that made them furious, and the races were so near that nothing could be done, and Mrs. — said that it was altogether impossible. You understand how unpleasant it must have been, do you not?' 'Madam,' I said, 'I do. I have been there before. My heart goes out to Hongkong. In the name of the Great Indian Mofussil I salute you. Henceforward Hongkong is one of us, ranking before Meerut, but after Allahabad, at all public ceremonies and parades.' I think she fancied I had sunstroke."

It is whispered that there have been heart-burnings over "Dorothy," and that the stage-manager has several new grey hairs.

The exodus from the Colony in the Spring will be an unusually large one. Among those who are bidding us farewell are Mr. D. R. Law, Mr. R. C. Wilcox, and Mr. Newman Mumford (who has accepted a transfer to Constantinople), while among those who are leaving on a holiday are the Colonial Secretary (Mr. May), Mr. Gompertz, Mr. Tomkins, Mr. E. W. Mitchell, Mr. F. Smyth, Mr. Wendt, Mr. Hinds and several other well-known residents and their families. On one homeward-bound steamer I am told that there will be at least twenty Hongkong children.

I was asked recently how it is that such a well-known street as the Rialto does not figure in the Streets Directory of the Colony. The answer is that the section of Queen's Road extending from Ice House Street to the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank, which is the district sometimes referred to as the Rialto, has not been officially christened so. As all the world knows, the Rialto is the business centre of Venice to which reference is frequently made in Shakespeare's play the *Merchant of Venice*, as for example:

Many a time and oft
In the Rialto you have rated me
About my monies and my usances.

The Beachcomber Question has been cropping up again both here and in Shanghai for consideration, and opinions are as strongly divided as ever as to whether any official action should be taken in the matter. Personally, I think that so long as we permit the dumping of indigent persons in the Colony the only suggestion worth considering is whether a labour bureau for casuals should not be established. The man of good character who is willing to work need not starve in Hongkong or sleep in the streets; the difficulty such men have is to ascertain just where to make their application for work. We all know the Beachcomber fairly well, and I doubt if five per cent. of those who beg at our street corners could accurately be described as "sober, honest and industrious." Ships which bring Chinese lunatics into the Colony to be a charge on the Colonial treasury are now liable to a penalty, and it seems to me that the only way to effectually stop the beachcomber nuisance is to extend the principle of this legislation.

The Band of the West Kent Regiment which played in the Public Gardens last week appears to have already made a reputation for itself in Hongkong, and I have no doubt when it is next privileged to play in the Public Gardens there will be a much larger attendance of the general public to listen to it.

I hear that the Peak Tramway Company are opposing the new Peak Tramway Bill which has passed its second reading and is now being considered clause by clause in Committee. The existing Company, I understand, offer opposition to the terminus of the new line being at Victoria Gap.

BANYAN.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 15th inst., the members present being:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR, SIR MATTHEW NATHAN, K.C.M.G.

HIS EXCELLENCY MAJOR-GENERAL VILLIERS-HATTON, C.B. (General Officer Commanding the Troops).

Hon. Mr. F. H. MAY, C.M.G. (Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Mr. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. Mr. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. Mr. P. N. H. JONES (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Captain L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE, R.N. (Harbour Master).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, K.T., C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, M.B., C.M., C.M.G.

Hon. Mr. WEI YUK.

Hon. Mr. W. J. GRESSON.

Hon. Mr. GERSHOM STEWART.

Mr. S. B. C. ROSS (Clerk of Councils).

MINUTES.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed.

FINANCIAL MINUTES.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I have the honour to lay on the table Financial Minutes Nos. 54, 55 and 56, and move that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The Hon. COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to second the motion.

The motion was carried.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I beg to bring up the report of the Finance Committee, No. 13, and move its adoption.

The Hon. COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to second the motion.

The motion was carried.

PAPER.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I have the honour to lay on the table a paper being a report by Professor Thorpe, F.R.S., on his examination of samples of cheap spirits purchased in Hongkong. The origin of this report, Sir, is that in 1898 a Commission was appointed here to enquire into the question of alcoholic liquors, their soundness and otherwise. It was reported, among other things, as various analyses have shown, that these cheap liquors did not contain deleterious substances, and contained less fusel oil than genuine spirits. The report went on to say the evidence collected here showed that drunkenness was due rather to the quantity than to the quality of the liquor consumed. In spite of that report questions have from time to time arisen as to the quality of the liquor sold in public houses. To put the matter entirely at rest five samples of the cheapest quality of liquor sold in public houses frequented by soldiers, sailors, and people of that class, in the Colony were obtained and sent home with the request that they might be analysed by the highest analytical authorities in the United Kingdom. This report is the result of that analysis and members will see that it entirely confirms previous analyses made by the Government Analyst of this Colony.

QUESTIONS.

The Hon. Mr. SHEWAN asked the following questions, standing in his name:—(1.) With regard to Buoys and Lights, will the Government take into consideration the advisability of having the present fairway marked at night by Automatic Light Buoys? (2.) Are the present two small white lights in the Capsicum Pass adequate? (3.) If not, what steps have the Government taken to replace them by better?

The Hon. HARBOUR MASTER—Your Excellency.—The replies to the three questions put by the Hon. Member of the Chamber of Commerce are taken in order as follows:—(1.) Yes. (2.) No. (3.) A red light similar to that displayed by the Chinese Imperial Maritime Customs at Amhurst Point has been ordered for Ma Wan Island.

ADJOURNMENT.

H. E. the GOVERNOR—The Council Meeting stands adjourned till after the conclusion of the meeting of the Finance Committee.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was then held, the Hon. Colonial Secretary presiding.

Financial Minute No. 54.—H. E. the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$500 in aid of the vote Botanical and Afforestation Department, Other Charges, for Tree Planting.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—This excess expenditure is due to the planting of trees and the removal of a nursery at Kowloon to make room for a building site.

The vote was agreed to.

Financial Minute No. 55.—H. E. the Governor recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,000 in aid of the vote Miscellaneous Services for Coals for Offices.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—This vote does not show any real excess in expenditure. The excess is over the approved estimates, but the estimates are under what they ought to have been, as there was a similar excess last year.

The vote was agreed to.

Financial Minute No. 56.—H. E. the Governor recommended the Council to vote a further sum of \$300 in aid of the vote Fire Brigade, Other Charges, for Repairs to Engines, Hose, &c., and Gratuities.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—This excess was due to the long period of intermittent water supply, and extra work by fire-engines.

The meeting of the Finance Committee was then adjourned; and the Council Meeting was resumed, H. E. the Governor taking the chair.

The Hon. COLONIAL SECRETARY—Sir, I have the honour to report that at the meeting just held of the Finance Committee the following votes, namely Financial Minutes Nos. 54, 55 and 56, were considered by the Finance Committee and unanimously adopted. I beg

therefore, Sir, to move that the Council do now approve of the recommendations of the Finance Committee.

The Hon. COLONIAL TREASURER—I beg to second the motion.

The motion was carried.

ADJOURNMENT.

The Council adjourned *sine die*.

ALCOHOLIC LIQUORS.

The report by Professor T. E. Thorpe, F.R.S., was dated Government Laboratory, 26th September, 1904. It read as follows:—

The five samples of spirits forwarded by the Under Secretary for the Colonies have been examined and the following are the results of the analyses:—

Mark—Govt.	A	B	C	D	E
Laby. No.—	M 127	M 128	M 129	M 130	M 131
Colour	Light Sherry	Light Sherry	Sherry	Dark Sherry	Light Sherry
Flavour	Slight Whisky	Slight Whisky	Harsh Spirit	Slight Brandy	Very slight Whisky
Strength	22.8 u.p.	15.7 u.p.	17.2 u.p.	22.7 u.p.	15.4 u.p.
Percentages:—					
Acidity—Total...	0.087	0.089	0.014	0.014	0.021
Volatiles	0.029	0.035	0.006	0.006	0.004
Furfural	0.0009	0.0007	Nil.	Nil.	Trace.
Aldehydes	0.0010	0.0012	Trace.	Trace.	Trace.
Esters ("Com-pound Esters")	0.0561	0.0626	0.0086	0.0045	0.0021
Higher Alcohols	0.1290	0.1174	0.0117	0.0129	0.0100
Solid matter in solution	0.304	0.330	0.169
Ash	0.028	0.020	0.020

From a consideration of these results we are of opinion that samples A and B consist of "patent still" or "silent" spirit with an admixture of genuine "pot still" whisky for the purpose of imparting the genuine whisky flavour to the mixture. These samples are very similar to what is usually sold in "public houses" in this country as whisky.

The whisky would not, of course, be considered of good quality from a commercial point of view, but the total percentages of "fusel oil impurities," and more especially the proportions of furfural and aldehydes present in these samples, are considerably less than are generally found in genuine Scotch and Irish "pot still" whiskies of high commercial quality.

Samples C, D, and E are wholly, or almost wholly, composed of "patent" or "silent" spirit diluted, coloured and flavoured to imitate brandy and whisky.

The "silent" spirit used in concocting these mixtures was highly rectified; and, as will be seen from the results of the analyses, the "fusel oil impurities" in the "whisky" and "brandy" as sold are very low.

Two of the samples, C and E, are coloured with caramel only, the colouring matter in the other three samples containing also traces of an aniline dye, but both colouring and flavouring matters are used in very minute quantities, and there is no evidence of the presence of any substance not usually found in spirituous drinks of this kind.

These "brandies" and "whiskies" cannot, therefore, be considered as in any way of a specially deleterious character; and apart from the quantities consumed, are at least as wholesome as spirits of the same quality sold in this country by publicans and other licensed traders.

That the justice of Chinese justice is just as just as the justice of the unjust is evident in the following extract from a recent imperial decree. On "information received," the Emperor (read Empress Dowager) promises a "strict investigation." How much the inquiry amounts to we have tried to indicate by putting quotation marks to the significant phrases:—We hereby command that the said Hsiang Shan, his assistant, Li Yi-t'ing, and others associated with them in the "nefarious trade," be forthwith handed over to the Board of Punishments, which in conjunction with the Imperial Clan Court, shall make a strict investigation of the matter and mete out to the "culprits" the penalties which they "richly deserve," thereby serving as an example and a warning to others desirous of following their "evil trade."—The culprits are accused of "opening a pawnbroking den of the lowest order."

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

A meeting of the Sanitary Board was held in the Board Room on the 13th instant. Dr. J. M. Atkinson presided and there were also present Dr. Clarke, M.O.H., Hon. A. W. Brewin, Col. W. E. Webb, R.A.M.C., Mr. Ian Chu Pak, Mr. A. Rumjahn, Mr. Fung Wa Chun, Mr. F. J. Badeley, Dr. P. Barnett and Mr. T. H. Hammer (Secretary).

The minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed.

CLEANSING THE CITY AND VILLAGES.

Dr. Barnett made a report on the cleansing of the city and villages. During one fortnight 2,280 houses, comprising 6,702 floors, were cleansed with the assistance of and under the supervision of the Board's officers. During the same time 212 empty floors were cleansed and 189½ cartloads of rubbish were removed to the dust boats by the Sanitary Department coolies. Also, Shauiwan and the neighbouring villages have been cleansed.

The report was laid on the table.

APPLICATIONS.

Applications for exemption from the necessity of providing a scavenging lane and from providing the other half of the scavenging lane respectively, in respect of No. 51, Bonham Strand, was considered.

The application was refused.

There was another application for a modification of the requirements of the Public Health and Buildings Ordinance on Kowloon Inland Lot No. 5, Garden Road, Tsimshatsui.

The application for modification was granted.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Regarding an application for No. 15, Fuk Sing Lane, Yaumati, to be registered as a fat boiling establishment. It had been suggested that to provide a lane at the rear of this and other houses, three feet might be taken from each.

Dr. Macfarlane wrote:—Unless offensive trades are all removed right out into the country—which seems unnecessary—this lane seems as isolated as any other place.

The PRESIDENT moved, and Mr. RUMJAHN seconded, that a license be granted from the first of January on the understanding that the conditions laid down by the Medical Officer of Health be complied with. The motion was agreed to.

A MARKET REQUIRED.

After other uninteresting applications, regarding the sale of food, etc., had been treated, an application for a transfer of a beef licence from No. 21, Queen's Road East, to No. 1, Wing Fung Street, was considered. It had been reported by Mr. Gibson, the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon, that in the immediate neighbourhood of Wing Fung Street there were three pork shops, two fish shops, two beef shops, and four fruit shops. A small market would take in these people, and would prevent trouble from sub-letting part of the shops to other people, and would make it easier for a proper supervision to be exercised over the shops.

The Captain Superintendent of Police minutely—A small market should be opened in this neighbourhood. If there is no land available it would be worth while to rent a ground floor of an ordinary house and fit it up with stalls.

The matter is to be referred back to the Colonial Veterinary Surgeon to report on the number of stalls required, and the amount of accommodation necessary.

WATER ANALYSIS.

Mr. Arthur C. Franklin, Government Analyst, reports that on the 28th ult. he analysed water collected from fountains in Bonham Road (Pokfulam service), Hollywood Road (Tytam service), Chater Road (Kowloon service), and Yaumati (Cheungshawan supply), and in each instance found the water of excellent quality.

LIMEWASHING.

During the fortnight ended on the 6th inst. 3,399 houses were limewashed in the Central District and 5,315 in the Western District.

RATS.

During the week ending 6th instant 844 rats were caught, of which 16 were found to be infected. Twenty rats out of 767 caught for the week ending 12th instant were found to be infected.

SUPREME COURT.

Saturday, 10th December.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

RITCHIE AND CO. v. F. L. CLYDE.

In this case the plaintiff firm, which was represented by Mr. P. W. Goldring, claimed 177.84 for goods sold and delivered to the defendant.

The defendant admitted liability on account of some of the items, but submitted that others were bought on behalf of a yole club to which he belonged.

His Honour held the defendant responsible and gave judgment for the plaintiff firm with costs.

Monday, 12th December.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

TANG TSU U v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

This was an appeal against a decision of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, made when he was presiding over the Land Court, regarding a claim for land in the New Territory, being Claim C.A. Survey District No. 4.

Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; the Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Attorney-General.

Mr. Slade—My Lord, the appellant in this case is a trustee for and representative of the five branches of the Tang Clan. He is not appealing on his own behalf alone, but on behalf of himself and fellow clansmen of whom he is trustee; and he claims on their behalf 150 acres of the foreshore in Chung-sha-wan Bay, which is the large bay in the Harbour on the mainland opposite Stonecutter's Island. The rights of the appellant are based on two documents issued by the board or bureau called the Sha Tin Kuk, in the year 1890. It is not disputed that these documents are genuine documents or that the Sha Tin Kuk was the proper Chinese authority to issue them. The questions which Your Lordships have to decide are:—first, what is the effect of these documents—what title, if any, do they give to the appellant; and secondly, whether the British Government has the right to confiscate or avoid these rights by anything done or omitted to be done by the appellant. I propose before going into the legal question to define the boundaries in dispute. The boundary on the east of both pieces of land claimed by the appellant is Sham-sui-po; and the boundary on the west, the Lai-chi-kok Custom House—the old Chinese custom house at Lai-chi-kok. The two pieces of land which are claimed are continuous pieces, the one joined to the other.

Mr. Slade here alluded to two exhibits (documents). Continuing—The reason, I may mention, that both have counterfoils is because the man who held the originals would not give them up, and then others were drafted—they sent a petition to the Sun On Magistrate and drafted their own copies. There is nothing, however, between the two documents. The boundary of that piece of land which is the northernmost of the two is stated as the long embankment on the border of people's fields. This northern boundary was rectified in 1892, and it was moved some little way nearer to the sea. The decision was given by the Sun On Court, specially sent down for the purpose of deciding this particular question. In the evidence before the Land Court the appellant stated the effect of that decision. This was the boundary the appellant pointed out to the British demarcation officers, and was the one which he claimed in the Land Court. It was held in the Land Court that this boundary was the northern boundary; the southern boundary was the sea. It was held by the Land Court in regard to this that the land comprised within that certificate included land only above high water mark (Sec. 14, Page 6 of Judgment).

The northern boundary was sand fields on taxed property of the same family (referred to in exhibit A. S.). That being the northern boundary, the southern boundary is the sea. The meaning of "The Sea" has been held by the Land Court as low water mark—we admit that. The word sea in the two documents is different:—in one it is high water mark, and in the other low water mark. The sea being a shifting boundary the area might alter from time to time. Our case is that under these documents (A. S. and A. T.) we obtained title of the land; the case for the Crown, apparently, is that these documents conferred no title.

Mr. Slade here referred to the affidavits.

The Chief Justice—This remains Government waste till put on the registrar—You dispute that?

Mr. Slade said that the Crown's contention was that they were merely licensed to go on the land for specific purposes; this was the principle of Chinese law; they had no right to the property till it was on taxation—there was no authority on that. He would ask Their Lordships to take the interpretation of Chinese law to be founded on judgments of Chinese courts—there could be no more competent authority than decisions of courts within that jurisdiction. In the present case there was fortunately a long series of decisions of no less than eight different magistrates who had sat in the Sun On District, and these decisions were before the Court. The great importance of these judgments was that they were given at a time after the document of title on which the appellant relied was given to the place, so the decision of 1890 had reference to the exact set of facts on which Their Lordships had to rely. The appellant had possession of the land at that time, and, as a matter of fact, continued in possession to the present day. Another most important fact to bear in mind was that this land was never *shing fo* (assessed to taxation).

His Lordship—You never had a title of ownership.

Mr. Slade—The land itself was registered and taxed.

The Hon. E. H. Sharp—It never was.

Mr. Slade said that premium had been paid. The land was registered and had paid taxes, and was described as taxed land.

The Hon. E. H. Sharp—The appellant before the Land Court said that he paid no taxes on the sand bank.

Mr. Slade—Paid no assessed taxes. It was formally registered land. A description of it and the area is given in the holding of the family. One copy of this is kept in the provincial treasury, and the other in the Sun On Magistracy. With land, like this, put on the register, when the time comes for it to be surveyed the officials know where to go to for such registration.

The Chief Justice—Land may be held in two ways?

Mr. Slade said that was so. The Crown had put forward a theory of Chinese law, and he (Mr. Slade) at that moment was contending that this was entirely an erroneous interpretation of Chinese law.

The Chief Justice—Was it not that the holder had the right to reclaim the land within a certain time and if he did not do so he lost the right. According to Mr. Justice Smith "Exercise control over the land" was the term used.

Hearing continues.

Tuesday, 13th December.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION,

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

TANG TSZ U v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

The hearing of this appeal against a decision of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, made when he was presiding over the Land Court, regarding a claim for land in the New Territory, being Claim C. A. Survey District No. 4, was continued.

As before, Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; the Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed

by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Attorney-General.

Numbers of translations of Chinese documents were gone through by Mr. Slade. The case is a very long one, and will probably not be finished this week.

Wednesday, 14th December.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

TANG TSZ U v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

For the third day the hearing of this appeal against a decision of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, made when he was presiding over the Land Court, regarding a claim for land in the New Territory, being Claim C. A. Survey District No. 4, was continued.

As before, Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; the Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Attorney-General.

Mr. Slade continued his case for the appellant. He said that at the time when the documents of title were issued it was competent by Chinese law for the Provincial Treasurer to issue certificates in respect of land which had not been reclaimed. The case for the Crown was that no title was ever issued till the time of the Sha Tin Kuk. Certificates were issued before that time and there was nothing to ever prevent their being issued.

Mr. Slade here quoted authority to show that titles were issued relating to waste land on the payment of a tax. It was a tax payable on unfertile land in Kwangtung. As soon as it became fertile it was liable to be assessed, and taxed accordingly. This system was peculiar to Kwangtung, as set down in the appellant's affidavit and not denied by the Crown.

The Hon. E. H. Sharp—We have not admitted it. We have no knowledge beyond that it applies to Kwangtung.

Mr. Slade referred to the documents. They were copies, the pages of some being numbered differently. He referred their Lordships to a certain paragraph.

The Puisse Judge—We cannot take our notes by this copy. The other copy will be the one to go to the Privy Council (Laughter).

Hearing continues.

Thursday, 15th December.

IN APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

BEFORE SIR H. S. BERKELEY (CHIEF JUSTICE) AND MR. T. SERCOMBE SMITH (PUISNE JUDGE).

TANG TSZ U v. THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

For the fourth day the hearing of this appeal against a decision of Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz, made when he was presiding over the Land Court, regarding a claim for land in the New Territory, being Claim C. A. Survey District No. 4, was continued.

As before, Messrs. M. W. Slade and H. G. Calthrop, instructed by Mr. J. Harston, appeared for the appellant; the Hon. E. H. Sharp, K.C., and Mr. H. E. Pollock, K.C., instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley (Crown Solicitor), for the Attorney-General.

After Mr. Slade had made a preliminary address, the Hon. E. H. Sharp said he did not agree that there had been any obligation for the Chinese authorities. They had a right to re-enter and, since the occupation, this right had passed to the Crown.

The Chief Justice—Though there was no obligation, it might have been the intention of the Chinese Government to let them stay on.

Hon. E. H. Sharp—We have not lost sight of that, My Lord, and are prepared to argue on that point.

Mr. Slade—They say they have a right to avoid it.

The Chief Justice said that the Crown must establish that fact.

Mr. Slade said it was for the Crown to prove that they had a right to avoid the title. He submitted that in order to establish a right of

re-entry they must prove that certain positive obligations had been infringed, and that they had a right to re-enter on account of such infringement. It was not enough to prove merely that there were neglected obligations; they had to prove that such neglect gave them a right to re-enter.

Hearing continues.

MARINE MAGISTRATE'S COURT.

Wednesday, 14th December.

BEFORE HON. CAPT. L. A. W. BARNES-LAWRENCE (MARINE MAGISTRATE).

"STAR" FERRY BOAT v. NAVAL LAUNCH.

An enquiry was held into the circumstances connected with a charge of negligent navigation preferred by Edward Osborne, the Secretary of the "Star" Ferry Co., Ltd., against Lai Hi, master of the naval launch C. C. 38, in the waters of the Colony on the 10th inst.

The complainant stated that on the 10th inst., at 10 a.m., the *Southern Star* was crossing to Kowloon. When about two-thirds of the way across she met the naval launch in question, on her port bow. The *Southern Star* whistled once, and went slightly to starboard, while C. C. 38 whistled twice and went slightly to port. The *Southern Star* by this means went under the stern of the launch to avoid collision. Had the *Southern Star* kept straight as she was entitled to do by the rule-of-the-road a collision would have occurred.

After hearing the defendant's statement the Hon. Capt. Barnes-Lawrence found it to be proved that the *Southern Star* had to alter her course to avert collision, due to the naval launch coxswain not having realised that it was her place to give way. He suspended the man's certificate for six weeks.

ALLEGED MURDERS BY EUROPEANS.

THREE EUROPEANS CHARGED.

Charles Smith, Erik Hogman and William Nason again appeared before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on the 13th inst. to answer the charge of murdering the Chinese boatwoman, Chan Yee, and the girl Kwok Chi, and with attempting to murder the boy Kwok Sui, in the waters of this Colony on the 27th November last. Mr. F. J. Badesley, Captain Superintendent of Police, prosecuted. He stated that the defendants hired a sampan at Bank Wharf on the night of the 27th ultimo. The occupants were a woman, a boy, a girl aged 13, and two small children. Soon after getting out into the harbour, the defendants are alleged to have thrown the boy, the woman, and the smallest child overboard. The boy was able to swim, and was saved. The woman and child were both drowned and the bodies picked up two days afterwards and identified. The boat with the three defendants, a girl of 13, and another small child, eventually made their way to a place in Lantau Island where the three defendants landed and went away. The children afterwards got out of the boat and were found by villagers and cared for. They were then taken to Chung Chow, and eventually brought to Hongkong. The defendants were about Lantau Island two or three days. They then got a boat and went to Castle Peak, where the Police arrested them. As the second defendant, Hogman, could not speak English the following evidence was interpreted to him by a Swedish interpreter.

Kwok Tai Chan deposed:—I am the owner of Sampan No. 3,272. On Sunday evening, the 27th November last, my boat was about four or five *chung* off Pottinger Street Wharf. I was in the street when three "Englishmen" came and hailed a boat. They said they were going to the American steamer *China*, and went on board, after arranging about the fare. My son rowed, and one of the men hoisted the sail. I stayed on shore. When my son returned and told me something, I went with him to the Central Police Station. I identified the bodies of my wife and daughter later; and subsequently identified the prisoners. Charles Smith is the one who made the bargain with me.

Kwok Sui: The last witness is my father. He had a sampan. Six of us lived on the sampan. Five of us were on board on the night of the 27th November last. We were near Pottinger Street Wharf. My father was ashore. He was with three "Englishmen" and hailed the boat. The men said they wanted to go to the *China*. They told my father they did not want him to go. When we got a good distance out one of the men pushed my sister. Another hit me and slashed me with an open knife. [Witness showed his leg, which was cut above the ankle.] I was then pushed overboard. I called out "Save life" and swam to another sampan. I found my father at the wharf and went with him to the Central Station and made a report. I identified the third defendant Nason. He was the man who pressed me down in the boat. When I was thrown overboard my mother and sister were still on board.

In reply to Nason: My legs were tied up, but I freed myself. I am sure that one of the "Englishmen" pulled up the sail.

By His Worship: I call the three defendants all Englishmen.

Kwok Chi said: I am the daughter of Kwok Tai Chan. I live on my father's sampan. Three Englishmen got on board in the daytime. One of them went forward and put up the sail. When we were a long way from the shore I was locked in the cabin. One of the defendants hit me. I was then knocked down the hold and became insensible. I got up again next morning and found the sampan was on a rock. I lifted the hatch off and found that only my little brother Sai Lo and myself were in the boat. While I was in the hold I heard my brother cry out "Save life." After being taken care of by some people who took me from the sampan, I was brought back to Hongkong. The hearing continues.

STATEMENTS BY THE PRISONERS.

Charles Smith, Erik Hogman and William Nason again appeared before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Police Court on the 14th inst. to answer the charge of murdering the Chinese boatwoman, Chan Yee, and the girl, Kwok Tit, and with attempting to murder the boy Kwok Sui, in the waters of this Colony on the 27th November last. Mr. F. J. Badeley, Captain Superintendent of Police, prosecuted.

The next witness called was Wong Luk, who said: I am a fisherman at Sham Sui Kok in the New Territory. On the afternoon of the 1st instant I was in my boat. Three "Englishmen" came and asked for tobacco for a smoke, one of them holding cigarette paper. I gave them some tobacco. One of them then made a motion showing that they wanted food. I supplied them, but they did not eat. One of them produced a 20 cent piece, and by signs they asked me to carry them. I refused, and the three went off with my boat. I then went to see Chow Fat, the owner of the boat, and we got into another boat with a third man and chased them. I asked the "Englishmen" to exchange boats. They did, and I returned alone, the other two men who came with me going with the "Englishmen." I went into the gaol here on the 4th inst. and identified the first and second defendants (Smith and Hogman). They were two of the three men who came and took my boat.

In reply to Nason: I do not know the difference between an Englishman, a Frenchman, or a German.

Chow Fat said: I am a fisherman at Lantau Island. On the afternoon of the 1st December, Wong Luk came and told me to chase the three "Englishmen." I got into a boat with Wong Luk and another and gave chase. We caught them up. They got into my boat and I took them to Castle Peak. They landed there.

Dr. Hunter, medical officer in charge of post-mortem examinations, deposed: I examined the bodies of the two deceased which were identified in my presence. There were no external marks of violence. The bodies appeared to have been in the water about a week. The cause of death was drowning.

P. C. No. 38 deposed: At 5.30 p.m. on the 3rd instant I found the body of a child floating on the water near Kellet's Island. I conveyed the body to Tsim Sha Tsui Police Station. It was

identified there by Kwok Tai Chan as that of his child.

P. C. No. 88 said: I was on duty in the harbour on the 2nd instant at 11 a.m. I found the body of a Chinese woman about 10 yards west of Kellet's Island. She was naked. I took the body to Tsim Sha Tsui Police Station.

In reply to Nason: Kellet's Island is off Wanchai near Jardine's Sugar Works.

Inspector Withers: On the 2nd instant I received a message on the telephone that a naked Chinese female had been found in the harbour. I took the first and second witnesses to the Police Station at Tsim Sha Tsui and they identified her as Chan Yee, wife of Kwok Tai Chan.

By Mr. Badeley: I was on duty in the charge room on the 27th ultimo when Kwok Sui made a report to me. His hair was wet and he carried in his hand wet clothes.

P. S. No. 8 said: On the 4th instant I was on the foreshore at Chow Kwong. I saw the three defendants pass along. I got assistance from a passing police launch and arrested them. After searching them I handed them over to Inspector Kerr at Ping Shan station.

John William Hanson, Chief Detective Inspector, gave evidence as to the identification of the defendants by witnesses, from amongst other men arranged in a line on the Police compound. The men were three times rearranged, and several of the witnesses picked the defendants out. Others picked the wrong men. On the 5th December three charges were preferred against each of the three defendants at the Central Station. He cautioned the first and third defendants, Smith and Nason, in the usual form, before they made any statement. He did likewise with the second defendant, Hogman, through a Swedish interpreter. He then typed the following statements which they made, and read each man's statement over to him, before allowing him to sign it:—

Charles Smith, on the charge of murdering Chan Yee said: I deny that I went on any boat in the harbour on the night of the 27th November, 1904. I left Kowloon on the afternoon of Friday, the 25th November, to walk to Canton, accompanied by two men, Hogman and Nason. I had met them that Friday afternoon at Kowloon. I had seen them in the streets in this town before, but had not spoken to them. We walked along the beach past several houses, and on the following day crossed in a boat to an island where there are some Sugar Works. I wish to make the same statement in answer to the charge of having killed Kwok Tit, also in answer to the charge of the attempted murder of Kwok Sui.

William Nason, in answer to the first charge, said: On Sunday, the 25th November last, Smith and myself went for a bathe in a stream. Smith proposed that he and I should get hold of a boat, even going so far as hiring a sampan, and putting the crew ashore on the mainland, and then going to Singapore. We walked together as far as the Hongkong Hotel, then parted. I walked round till about 5 p.m., when I met Smith at the Sailors' and Soldiers' Home. Coming back along Queen's Road we met Hogman near the Stag Hotel. We told him of our proposal, and Hogman said he would join us. Smith and I then left Hogman and went to supper. Later on we all met and walked down to the Standard Oil Company's Works, and a little beyond. We there looked round for a boat, but seeing that all had people aboard, gave it up. We walked back to town and got into a sampan near the Yaumati Ferry Launch Wharf. After getting into it I saw five people in the boat, and as I reasoned then that we would have to kill somebody if we went off with that number, I told the boatman I wanted to go ashore again. The others followed. We walked along a little further and saw a sampan coming into the wharf. A man bargained with us to take us off to the American mail boat *China* for 70 cents. I had offered him 60 cents but he wanted 10 cents "Cumshaw." The man stayed ashore. A boy was pulling forward. When half way between Hongkong and the mainland, I crawled forward, leaving Smith and Hogman aft. I said, "Ship over there, John!" In doing so I was only putting in time for Smith and Hogman to bind those aft, who were to be tied up. I heard the cry of the woman aft, and tried to catch the boy by the neck or the throat.

He resisted, and putting his foot under my chin, pushed me back. I took out a knife and attacked him, but could not manage him, although he seemed a little afraid. My struggle with him lasted about ten minutes, and about two minutes after I had drawn my knife. In our struggle we got to the side of the sampan, and as I let go he fell overboard. I then went off to see what Hogman and Smith were doing. I found Hogman holding the woman with his two hands over her mouth to prevent her calling out. I put my handkerchief in the woman's mouth, and then went forward to put out the light, which I did by smashing the glass. Just as I put out the light I heard a splash, and heard Hogman say, "The woman has gone overboard." Just then we got close to some steamer and put the boat to port. As an indication that we did not intend to kill anybody Smith put the girl down the middle hatch. The boat was making water and we bailed her out. When about five miles to leeward of an island the mast carried away. We rigged it up and then sailed to the island. We thought it was the mainland. We walked along for about an hour when we came to the top of a hill. Here we lay down and went to sleep. We walked for several days on that island, and then getting into a boat and pulling away landed at a place where there is a Sugar Refinery. We walked round the beach, and put in another night in the open in a haystack. On the following day we were arrested.

In answer to the second charge of murdering Kwok Tit, Nason said: Smith told me soon after passing the island where the signal station is that he had thrown one child overboard and put one down the hatch. I never saw that child. I only go by what Smith told me. With regard to what happened on the boat, I refer to the statement I made on being accused of the murder of Chan Yee.

On the third charge of attempting to murder the boy, Kwok Sui, Nason referred to his former statements.

Erik Hogman, in answer to the charge of murdering Chan Yee, said: It was our intention to throw the men overboard that they might swim ashore. We then decided to put the woman ashore at the first place at which we called. Smith, Nason and myself wanted to take charge, but as the boat people would not let us, there was nothing for us to do but to throw them overboard. I met Smith and Nason on the 27th November last. They said "Come, let us take a sampan and go to Singapore." I said "Yes." They then went away to get something to eat, and I did likewise. They met me again at the Sailors' Home, and we went and tried to engage a sampan. We went to the Canton Steamers Wharf, but could not get one good enough. On going further along a Chinaman asked us if we wanted a boat. We said we wanted to go to the American mail steamer *China* and agreed to give him 70 cents. To this he agreed. We started off and the sail was hoisted. When leaving we sat in the aft part of the boat. We made it up between us that I was to tackle any male persons on board, and Smith was to tackle females. After getting out Smith said "You tackle the woman." I did not like to do it, but Smith told me a second time and said I was stronger. I agreed. Nason went forward and tackled the boy. I got hold of the woman and put my hands over her mouth to keep her quiet. Smith got hold of a child. He tried to keep her quiet, but could not succeed, so threw her overboard. Before throwing her overboard, Smith let her go to assist in keeping the woman quiet. He hit the woman over the head with the tiller, which he pulled out of the rudder head. He struck the woman a second blow, and as the child began to cry out, he threw it overboard. At the same time I saw the boy jump overboard. Nason then came up and he and I threw the woman overboard. Nason then took the helm and steered in the direction of Green Island, and then out to sea.

Hogman made the same statement in answer to the charge of murdering the girl Kwok Tit, and attempting to murder the boy, Kwok Sui. Hearing continues.

ACCUSED COMMITTED.

The three Europeans, Charles Smith, Erik Hogman, and William Nason, again ap-

peared on the 15th inst. before Mr. Gompertz to answer the charge of murdering the Chinese boat-woman Chan Yee, the girl Kwok Tit, and with attempting to murder the boy Kwok Sui, in the waters of the Colony on 27th November last. Mr. F. J. Badesley, Captain Superintendent of Police, prosecuted.

The first witness called was Chong Kun, coxswain of Police Pinnace No. 5. Questioned as to whether he was out with R.C. 88 when the body of a naked Chinese woman was picked up, about two weeks ago, off Kallett Island, he replied in the affirmative. Asked what was then done with the body, he replied that it was put into a dead-box at the Wharf by some Sanitary Board coolies, and conveyed to the Police Station. The age of the deceased was between 30 and 40. He did not remember the exact date when the body was found, but believed it to be the 4th instant. He did not see the body identified.

Mr. Gompertz then said that on the evidence that had been adduced, he should commit the three defendants to the Criminal Sessions; but that he would hear any statements they might wish to make.

Charles Smith, after being cautioned in the customary manner, stated:—I arrived in Hongkong from Manila by the *Zafro* about two months ago. After being here about two weeks I met William Nason. He and I stayed together from that time until the 27th. I made a suggestion then to him that we should get a sampan, tie up the Chinese on board, and set them off on some island, and sail south. The suggestion met with immediate approval. We walked down the street, and got a third man—Hogmann. He was willing to go. That evening, at 8 o'clock, Nason and myself met Hogmann at the Sailors' Home. We had some difficulty in getting a boat. Finally, after getting one, we started across to the American ship. When we arrived halfway to the mainland on the other side, Nason started for the boy ahead, and Hogmann for the woman. I myself went for the children. I had some difficulty in keeping them quiet. I took the first one and put her down in the hold—the thirteen-year-old one. I then started back for the other one, the small one. She took fright and jumped overboard. I tried to grab her, but it was too late. The sampan was about to run into a large ship. I had to grab the tiller and head her inland. That is all I wish to say.

Erik Hogmann, through Mr. Lindblom (interpreter) said:—I tried to heave the woman overboard, but she either jumped or fell overboard herself. That is all I wish to say. [Hogmann expressed a wish to hear the statements made by Nason read over, as he had not understood them, and Mr. Gompertz saying he thought him entitled to hear them, they were accordingly translated to him.]

William Nason, after being cautioned, stated:—After the boy I had been fighting with had jumped overboard I put out the light then before going aft. When I got aft I saw Smith chasing the small "kid." It had got up on the stern—right at the back, as far as it could get, Smith had just made a grab for it when it jumped overboard. Then I saw Hogmann holding the old woman, Smith taking the tiller. I put my handkerchief in the old woman's mouth then, and then went and sat in the well. The woman had begun to fight. She pushed Hogmann away from her, and jumped overboard. That is all I have to say.

The defendants were then asked whether they wished to call any witnesses, and, replying in the negative, were formally committed to take their trial at the next Criminal Sessions.

Mr. Thomas Charles Downing, accountant of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China (eldest son of Mr. Thomas J. Downing, of Ickleton, Cambridgeshire), was on the 15th inst. in St. John's Cathedral, married to Miss Gertrude Maud Milton, the only daughter of the late Mr. Francis Milton, of London. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. F. T. Johnson, chaplain of the Cathedral. Mr. H. G. C. Fisher, engineer of the Public Works Department, acted as best man. The wedding was a very quiet one. The newly-wedded couple left for Macao on their honeymoon in the afternoon.

THE HONGKONG HIGH-LEVEL TRAMWAYS COMPANY, LIMITED.

The report for presentation to the shareholders at the Twentieth Ordinary General Meeting, to be held at the Company's Registered Offices, Alexandra Buildings, Des Vaux Road, on Friday, 23rd December, is as follows:—

Gentlemen,—We beg to lay before you the report and statement of accounts for the year ending 30th November, 1904.

The net profits for the twelve months, after paying charges and all running expenses and making provision for auditors' fees, amount to ... \$46,239.91
To which has to be added the balance brought forward from last account ... 4,283.58
\$50,523.49

And from this has to be deducted remuneration to general managers (5 per cent. on gross earnings) ... \$ 4,640.07

Leaving available for appropriation \$ 45,883.42

Your general managers and consulting committee recommend that a dividend of 15 per share be paid to shareholders, absorbing \$18,750; that \$4,337.14 be written off stations and shelters; that \$20,000 be transferred to reserve fund, and the balance, viz. \$2,796.28 be carried to new profit and loss account.

CONSULTING COMMITTEE.

Messrs. R. K. Leigh and C. Ewens and the Hon. C. W. Dickson having resigned, Messrs. J. Orange and J. Scott Harston and the Hon. W. J. Gresson were invited to fill the vacancies and accepted seats on the Board. In accordance with Rule 15 of the Company's Articles of Association, the present members, the Hon. W. J. Gresson, Mr. J. Orange and Mr. J. Scott Harston retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

In the absence of Mr. W. H. Potts from the Colony, the accounts have been audited by Mr. F. Maitland and Mr. W. H. Gaskell. Mr. Potts and Mr. Gaskell offer themselves for re-election.

JOHN D. HUMPHREYS AND SON,
General Managers.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET.

For the year ending 30th November, 1904.

LIABILITIES.		\$	c.
Capital account: 1,250 shares of \$100 each, fully paid up.....	125,000.00		
Reserve fund.....	30,000.00		
Unclaimed dividends.....	840.00		
Local and general liabilities.....	9,045.68		
Mortgage R. B. L. No. 80.....	29,000.00		
Profit and loss: Brought forward \$4,283.58, and R. B. lots 80 and 86).....	46,239.91		
Profit and loss: For current year.....	50,523.49		
		\$243,909.17	

ASSETS.		\$	c.
Permanent way, concession and deed of grant as per last account.....	125,000.00		
Stations, Crown leaseholds and buildings (Inland Lots 1317, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1353, and R. B. lots 80 and 86).....	43,371.43		
Rolling stock.....	24,378.56		
Furniture account.....	125.00		
Coals and stores in hand.....	1,063.99		
Accounts receivable.....	616.65		
Cash in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.....	\$47,102.06		
Cash and compradores' orders in hand.....	2,251.54		
	49,353.54		
		\$243,909.17	

PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT.

Dr.		\$	c.
To salaries and wages.....	22,645.91		
To maintenance and repairs.....	3,833.53		
To charges.....	3,245.80		
To coals and stores.....	11,678.86		
To rates, Crown rent and fire insurance.....	910.73		
To godown and station rent.....	\$2,076.64		
Less sundry rents received.....	830.00		
	1,245.64		
To office rent and clerks' salaries.....	3,000.00		
To balance.....	50,523.49		
		\$97,084.96	

Cr.	\$	c.
By amount brought forward from last year.....	4,283.58	
By transfer fees.....	2.00	
By traffic receipts for the year to date.....	91,740.81	
By interest.....	1,059.07	
	\$97,084.96	

GREEN ISLAND CEMENT COMPANY, LIMITED.

An extraordinary general meeting of shareholders of this Company was held at the Company's offices, St. George's Building, on the 14th instant. There were present Hon. R. Shewan (chairman), Sir C. P. Chater and Hon. W. J. Gresson (consulting committee), and Messrs N. H. Rutherford (Secretary), A. Babington, J. Orange, G. Murray Bain, E. A. Hewett, C. A. Tomes, and Fung Wa Chun.

RESOLUTION CONFIRMED.

The Secretary read the resolution with regard to increasing the capital of the Company etc., passed at the extraordinary general meeting held on the 26th November last, a report of which appeared in a previous issue.

The CHAIRMAN moved that the resolution be now confirmed as a special resolution.

Mr. E. A. HEWETT seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

THE NIPPON YUSEN KAISHA.

We published on Dec. 12th an excellent article on this report, from the *Japan Mail*. The report to the shareholders, as follows, has just reached us:—

The directors submit the annexed statement of the liabilities and assets of the company, and profit and loss account for the half-year, ended September 30th, 1904.

The gross profits of the company for the past half-year amount to yen 2,981,144.778, out of which there has been paid:—

Depreciation of the company's fleet Yen	
and property.....	751,037.950
Insurance fund.....	348,661.390
Ships' structural repair fund.....	450,640.810
	Yen 1,550,340.150

leaving a balance of yen 2,437,162.209, including yen 1,006,357.581 brought forward from the last account.

The directors now propose that yen 71,540.230 be added to the reserve fund, raising it to yen 2,059,055.886; and that yen 71,358.110 be allowed as directors' and auditors' fees. From the remainder the directors recommend a dividend at the rate of ten per cent., together with two per cent. as special dividend, thus making twelve per cent. per annum, which will absorb yen 1,820,000.000.

The balance, yen 974,263.869, will be carried forward to the next account.

COLLISION IN THE HARBOUR.

GERMAN MAN-O-WAR SINKS YAUMATI FERRY BOAT.

A collision with serious consequences occurred in the Harbour on the 14th instant, when the German gun-boat *Luchs*, bound to Shanghai, rammed the Hongkong-Yaumati ferry launch *Cheong Ching*, owned by Mr. Lo Cheuk. Shortly afterwards the *Cheong Ching* sank alongside her wharf at Hongkong. No lives were lost.

The incident happened at about 10.20 a.m., the *Cheong Ching* at the time being bound from Yaumati to Hongkong. She was on the southern side of the central fairway, nearing her destination. The German gun-boat rammed her on her port side near the boiler. As the launch went full speed ahead towards the shore the Germans did not lower any boats. Water gained rapidly on the little craft, and she sank alongside her wharf about three minutes after her arrival there. The passengers, 45 in number, all managed to scramble on shore before the launch went down.

The *Cheong Ching* is a 35-ton launch. During day-time a red flag will be displayed over the place where she is submerged, and a red light at night.

INQUESTS.

RE YUEN CHAN, DECEASED.

At the Magistracy on the 12th instant Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz held an inquiry into the cause of death of a Chinaman named Yuen Chan, who was killed at the Naval Yard Extension on the 22nd ultimo. Messrs. W. E. Claret, W. J. Rattey and J. V. Hayes were empanelled as a jury. The coroner stated that the deceased was working in an excavation from which bags of dirt were being raised by a crane. As nine bags were being hauled up, the rope of the crane gave way, and the weight, falling on the deceased, crushed him. The evidence of Dr. Hunter showed that fracture of the skull was the cause of death. As the evidence with regard to the number of men employed on a crane was conflicting—a partner of the firm stating that three men were employed, while the driver of the crane at which the accident happened said he did all the work—the inquiry was adjourned until Friday afternoon at 2.15, when the engineer in charge of the cranes is to be called to give evidence.

At the Magistracy on the 14th instant Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz held an inquiry into the cause of death of a Chinese female, Ying Shut, who was found drowned in the harbour on the 28th November last. The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. F. Kilien (Foreman), C. E. A. Hance and C. Shüttinbach. The Coroner informed the jury that deceased was found floating in the harbour on the 28th ultimo. She was identified as having been a servant in the house of a respectable Chinaman, who stated that she had shown on various occasions an extraordinary demeanour. Deceased had previously attempted to commit suicide, after which she was sent to the Government Civil Hospital as an outpatient and treated there. The first witness called was Chung Shui Kai, the employer, who said she was slightly deranged. She had been a servant in his house for fourteen years, and usually appeared to be happy and contented. On a previous occasion she had tried to commit suicide by jumping into a tub of water, head first, when the amah pulled her out. She was laughing at the time.

Further witnesses were called, whose testimony went to prove that the deceased was of unsound mind. P.C. No. 88 gave evidence as to the finding of the body in the harbour near Bank Wharf on the 30th ultimo, and Dr. Hunter said he made a post-mortem examination of the body, and found that deceased had met her death by drowning.

The verdict of the jury was "Found drowned."

ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH.

THE LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE.

The Rt. Rev. J. C. Hoare, Bishop of Victoria, on the 13th instant laid the foundation stone of the new Kowloon church, St. Andrew's Church, presented to the Colony by Sir Paul Chater. The site was roofed over with a matshed, strings of bunting hanging around it. The approach to the foundation stone was laid out with red carpeting, and numerous very pretty plants in pots added colour to the surroundings. Chairs were provided for the numerous ladies and gentlemen who attended the ceremony. Included among those present were noticed the Hon. Sir C. P. Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Hon. Capt. L. Barnes-Lawrence, R.N., and Mr. A. Bryer, of Messrs. Leigh and Orange, the architects acting in an honorary capacity.

At about four o'clock, the appointed hour, the choir, with the clergy, churchwardens and other officials, and the Bishop, proceeded to the site. The clergy consisted of the following:—Rev. Messrs. T. H. France, E. J. Hardy, G. Searle, W. Knox, E. J. Barnett, Fok Tsing Shann, F. Icely, R.N., W. Southam, P. Jenkins, C. Gordon Vanden and F. Johnson. The choir was under the direction of Mr. A. G. Ward, the organist of St. John's Cathedral. The choir boys from St. Peter's Seamen's Church, all dressed in sailor suits, were also present. The ceremony consisted of prayer and the singing of hymns, psalms, etc. The foundation stone was laid in due course and further prayers followed. The procession finally returned in the same order as at the beginning.

CORRESPONDENCE.

BAND PERFORMANCES AGAIN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th December.

SIR,—Either "Banyan" or your compositor must have made a mistake when writing or setting up the "Hongkong Jottings" which appear in your issue of to-day.

The paragraph I refer to is that relating to the Royal West Kent Regiment's Band. Banyan "has no doubt" the attendance will be larger the next time the Band is "privileged to play in the Gardens."

To me the boot seems to be on the other foot and the Public and not the Band would appear to be the "privileged party."

This question formed the subject of a very interesting correspondence in your valuable paper some months ago, and the consensus of public opinion as indicated by the letters of your correspondents very clearly favoured the common sense view that the people of Hongkong accept rather than bestow a privilege when they attend such a musical treat as is provided by the Military Bands in general and the West Kents' band in particular.—I have the honour to be, Sir, Your obedient servant,

GOLD LACE.

ROBINSON ROAD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 12th December.

SIR,—May I presume to draw the attention of the responsible authority to the disgraceful state of Robinson Road (Kowloon); the wheelbarrows which have been used for removing the earth from the site of the new church have been allowed to make holes and ruts several inches deep, and the loose earth covers the road to a depth in many places of two or three inches. In the present dry weather, with a strong wind blowing most days, this state of things is positively painful to residents as well as to pedestrians; it is impossible to open a window with any comfort, and walking is anything but pleasure, and ricksha riding is positively dangerous.

Contractors and coolies in Kowloon seem to be allowed to do what they please with the roads; are there no byelaws or regulations for the protection of the poor persecuted and long-suffering ratepayer and resident?

The Merry Microbe has in this particular case a splendid opportunity to make himself known, and I sincerely trust that Dr. Clarke will at once get on the war path.

Trusting that you will spare me the space for this little growl, which I know will be endorsed by all residents on the Robinson Road.—I am, etc.,

W. K.

HONGKONG ROADS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 13th December, 1904.

SIR,—Following the letter of your correspondent "W. K." in your paper of this morning, may I also be permitted, through the medium of your valuable paper, to bring to the notice of the responsible authority the bad state of some of the Hongkong roads on the higher level? I refer specially to the Robinson Road from the east end of the Conduit Road to the Richmond Estate. This section is covered with angular pebbles most distressing to the pedestrians, who are fain to travel in the side channels. If the Director of the P. W. D. would take a walk along the Robinson Road to the Upper Richmond Road and return by way of the Lyttelton Road as far as Ravenshill, he would see for himself that these roads are really not a credit to his Department. The ratepayers contribute liberally towards the maintenance of roads. I have seen roads in much smaller and poorer cities kept in a much better state of repair.—Yours, etc.,

PEDESTRIAN.

BAND PERFORMANCES IN THE BOTANICAL GARDENS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—Allow me to say at once in reply to "Gold Lace" that I entirely exonerate the compositor from blame for the appearance in my "Jotting" on the Royal West Kent Regiment's Band, of the sentence having reference to the Band, being "privileged to play in the Gardens."

The paragraph appeared as I wrote it, and while I entirely concur in the opinion of "Gold Lace" that the people of Hongkong accept rather than bestow a privilege when they attend such a musical treat as is provided by the Military Bands in general, and the West Kents in particular, I nevertheless submit that this does not in the least affect the statement that when a Band plays in the Botanical Gardens it is "privileged" to play there.

The Government, for a very inadequate reason, as I think, have for many years not permitted Band performances in the Botanical Gardens, and Bands may only play there now by permission of the Botanical Department. The accuracy of the statement that Bands may play in the Gardens only when they are privileged by the Government to do so will not, I think, be disputed, even by "Gold Lace," and that is the only meaning I intended my words to bear.—Yours, &c.,

"BANYAN."

[A privilege (*privus + legis*) is something not enjoyed by the community as a whole. If the Gardens were Public Gardens, and not Crown property, the public, having general right of access thereto, could not be said to be privileged by any indirect advantage (as sweet music) that came to them while enjoying their public right. The "private law" of the B. and A. Department is that no band may play there without permission. Having permission, the West Kents were privileged. Using the word colloquially, nobody denies that it is a "privileged" to hear a good band play; but our contributor's use of the word in his "Jottings" was correct.—Ed.]

BAND PERFORMANCES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 14th December.

SIR,—I sincerely regret having mistaken "Banyan's" meaning in his Jotting re Bands. All the same, with all deference, I can't quite agree with either you or him as to the use of the word "privilege" in this case.

I certainly shall not dispute the fact that no band can play in the Gardens without arrangement with the "powers that be." But whether this arrangement is accorded "as a privilege" or requested "by kind permission" of the Officers of the Corps concerned, appears to me to govern the whole argument. Probably the popular and ever-courteous Superintendent of the B. & A. Department could enlighten us on this point. Pending this favour or failing the granting of it I shall beg to maintain (even at the dire risk of being considered disputatious by "Banyan") that in no wise can a Military Band be considered to be under a privilege when playing for the Public benefit.—I am, etc.,

"GOLD LACE."

HONGKONG ROADS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

Hongkong, 13th December.

SIR,—Let me draw (through the medium of your valuable paper) the attention of the Authorities to the miserable state of the road in Lyndhurst Terrace down to Wellington Street.—Yours, etc.,

"TAX-PAYER."

[When Mark Twain and his companions were surfeited by the famous Italian guide with references to Michael Angelo, they said: "Enough! Lump the whole thing. Say that Angelo designed the universe." The flood of letters that appears to be threatening, complaining of bad roads at Hongkong, seems to demand a "lumping of the whole thing!"]

SHANGHAI WATER SUPPLY.

The Shanghai Municipal Council regards the admission of the following condition (in their agreement with the Water Company) as an important principle. At the same time, it is recognised that in special cases, exceptional treatment may be necessary in the interests of the Company, and the Council is prepared to consider a statement of such exceptional cases for inclusion in a subsidiary agreement, if submitted by the Company.

Condition No. 1—That the Company should agree that hereafter the charge for water for domestic purposes to consumers shall not exceed 5 per cent on rentals in the case of Chinese houses and 4 per cent for foreign dwellings. Furthermore, that it be admitted that the present scale of charges for existing foreign houses shall not be increased.

The Directors of the Company have replied that they are prepared to accept the principle of that condition, but stipulate that it be so framed as to prevent any difference of opinion hereafter arising as to the rate which the Company is entitled to charge in the event of the occupancy of any foreign house being changed so as to cause or require an increased supply of water for domestic purposes.

\$10,000 BAIL REFUSED.

In connection with the recent fire at West Point it is alleged that there are certain discrepancies between book entries and the goods that were actually in the godowns. It is reported that the owner of the goods did not care to take action in the matter, so the police on Dec. 13th charged the man said to be responsible with larceny as a bailee. The case came before Mr. F. A. Hazeland (Second Magistrate). Mr. Dixon, of Mr. John Hastings' office, appeared for the defence, and, on the case being remanded for a week, applied for bail—they were prepared to furnish \$10,000 bail if necessary. The police strongly objected, and, on the Magistrate appearing to hesitate, said that if bail was granted they would rearrest the man on another charge as soon as he was released. Mr. Hazeland said that as no evidence had been taken in the case, and bearing in mind that it was a charge which might possibly go to the Supreme Court, he thought he would not be justified in allowing bail. Bail refused.

CHINESE NEIGHBOURLY AMENITIES.

Lau Chan, married woman, residing on the ground floor of No. 38, Upper Lascar Row, proceeded against Lo Ah Chee, married woman, residing on the first floor of the same house, for using abusive and insulting language whereby a breach of the peace might have been occasioned; also with damaging the complainant's clothes to the value of \$5. Mr. O. D. Thomson appeared for the defendant. Lau Chan said the defendant poured water into her flat through cracks in the floor. When she complained Lo Ah Chee abused her and called her [various female animals]. The defendant was constantly pouring water into her room, wherefor she wished to bring the matter under His Worship's notice. She produced the damaged jacket.

His Worship after examination found the damage very trifling. It was not water but mud that had been put on it.

To the Interpreter: Tell her that I have tried hundreds of these cases, and ask her does she say \$5 worth of damage has been done.

Complainant: That is what the jacket cost when new.

His Worship: But it has been very much moth eaten.

Complainant: I have resided in the same house for years, and have never had a quarrel, but since the advent of the defendant she has always been quarrelling.

His Worship: Yes, I know. She is a very troublesome woman.

By Mr. Thomson:—When the defendant abused me I retaliated. I said "You are [female animals]."

His Worship: Those are not very nice words to use, you know.

Ling Yee, a married woman residing on the same flat as complainant, said she heard the complainant and defendant using impolite words.

His Worship said he had heard a considerable number of these cases, and there was always the same old story about the water. He found the defendant had used abusive language, and in order that he might not be troubled further with these people, he would bind her over in a personal bond of \$100 to keep the peace for 12 months.

LI'S GUILT OR ENGLAND'S?

Under this caption, Mrs. Archibald Little (Li's biographer) writes to the N.-C. Daily News, as follows:—

Those who are feeling that steps should be taken to prevent in future the sacrifice of so many lives, the blighting of so many more, will do well to consider how this present war has been brought about. Nations have their duties as well as individuals, and from the moment when England made herself *une quantité négligeable*, as one of the best diplomatists in the Far East described her, some ten years ago, it became inevitable that either Russia must engulf Japan, or Japan resist Russia. A letter of the late Li Hung Chang to the late Prince Yung Lu has lately been quoted with very severe comment, and without apparently considering how well Li knew that "in present circumstances it might be difficult for us to recover possession of it (Manchuria)." Knowing what Li knew of the condition of the Chinese Army he might as well have written frankly "impossible." He therefore relied upon war between Russia and Japan, and whichever side won, hoped to secure some advantage for his own country—an opportunist policy, all that he had ever attained to in his long life. But this is to consider the letter as if we knew no more, had never heard of the cheque at Moscow, which an eyewitness, one of our most brilliant writers, assured me he had seen. What also of the following story, which I now simply proceed to relate as it was told to me, in the hope that it may be either refuted or confirmed. The events are so recent they are surely easily susceptible of proof or disproof.

The story is that when Li was sent for by the Dowager Empress to come to Peking and make terms of peace with the Allies there was a little trouble about his steamer. I had heard before that it was originally intended he should travel in a Russian man-of-war or be guarded by a Russian man-of-war, but the British Admiral stopped that, saying the British flag was enough protection. I now hear that Li changed his ship on the river opposite the Kaiping mine wharves, there getting on to one of that Company's steamers, and that on the new steamer there were a number of field guns and ammunition. When told these would cause trouble on arrival at Tangku, Li said: "I am on a Peace Commission, they trust me, there will be no trouble at all."

At Taku Bar an English cutter came off to board the vessel, but the Lieutenant just told them to carry on, and they went on to Tangku alongside the wharf. Whilst there the Russian Admiral called, and Li returned the call, and whilst all this was going on Russian soldiers came and took away all the field guns.

Mr. Kingsley, detached from Customs Service for 14 or 15 years, and told off to accompany Li, then pressed him for a despatch to take up to the Peitang fort, ordering the officer in command to hand it over to the British, saying if this were not done there would be trouble. Li would not consent. Mr. Kingsley pressed his point as best he could. At last Li said "You go out of the room, and I'll have a despatch written." The despatch was finished, handed to Mr. Kingsley by Li, and by him passed on to a confidential man in a steam-launch. The man went up to the Peitang fort, but the attack had already commenced. Thus the despatch was never delivered, possibly is still in Mr. Kingsley's hands. According to my informant the despatch ordered that the fort should be delivered to the Russians!

There need not have been any fighting there and then, if the Admirals had waited, though the result might not have pleased everyone concerned.

This is surely exactly of a piece with the rest of Li's policy, and how much it was approved

in the eyes of the "Liege Lady," to use Ku Hung-ming's favourite phrase, is sufficiently shown by the unexampled honour just recently accorded to his heir, one never before granted to a Chinese.

That he and his "Liege Lady" were agreed as to their line of policy I cannot understand anyone doubting. Now if Li had his reasons of solid value for following it, does it seem reasonable to suppose that she had not?

I recollect standing at the doors of the women's quarter of the Palace in the Forbidden City in 1901 whilst agonised eunuchs put their backs against the doors and pleaded there were ladies of the Imperial Harem left behind there. "Oh, well, I suppose we must not go in and frighten the ladies," said the then highest officer of our Intelligence Department, whilst I pleaded I did not believe there were any ladies there, that if there were I should like to see them, and certainly could not frighten them. We have all heard since what treasure was hidden behind those doors.

Judging Li Hung Chang, we must remember he was the Dowager Empress's Prime Minister, and to remain so must act in accordance with her interests; and in considering this war and the miserable expenditure of human lives, and yet larger number of unhappy lives blighted by the loss of the bread-winners, the loved ones, we must realise how long and how carefully Russian politicians have been preparing their various moves, absolutely regardless of the misery they might cause in Russia.

It is far more the thought of the unhappy, unwilling Russians led to slaughter than of the Japanese dead that moves me to write these lines. For the Japanese go gladly to die for their country, knowing it is a matter of life and death for her; the Russians most unwillingly. What do they know of Manchuria, poor-natured peasants? But it might surely all have been averted if England had maintained her post as policeman of the world's peace, and not made herself, as she continues to make herself, *une quantité négligeable* in the Far East. If the war continues we shall have to fight in the end. If we had shown ourselves ready to fight from the first and insisted with Japan on Russia keeping to its agreement about Manchuria who can think there would then have been any war? Why should Li Hung Chang have written of us "for England cannot employ force"? We know it is false but what pains we have taken to convince the Far East it is true, and till it is only a pain to look at our huge men-of-war never used, kept as toys, too expensive to be properly exercised and in proper gun practice even, and with, as I still believe, the finest men in the world inactive behind those guns, when they ought to be always active in upholding justice, repelling aggression, and promoting peace throughout the world. We want no more land. We want peace, we English. But if the policeman neglects his work, peaceful citizens must arm themselves to eject burglars. The Chinese could not by themselves drive the Russians out of Manchuria. They knew it, all the world knew it, especially Russia.

THE CHINESE EMPEROR'S DESIRE TO LEARN.

A Peking correspondent states that at a recent audience, while questioning an official who had come from Shanghai, his Majesty the Emperor having learned that there is quite a large number of standard foreign works on almost every branch of science and philosophy, as well as histories of various ancient and modern countries, that have been translated into Chinese and are now on sale at the bookshops of Shanghai, at once issued commands to the Imperial Household Department to send a special official of the Court down to Shanghai to purchase as many such books as can be bought. Occasionally a high official sends the Emperor a translated work or so, and these are always read with avidity by his Majesty, but the donors generally take care to send only such books as have no dangerous tendency to influence their readers to seek to revolutionise existing conditions. Evidently his Majesty had been so far kept in ignorance of the fact that such large numbers of foreign books of every sort had been translated into Chinese and were ready to the hand by

the mere paying for them, for the Emperor is said to have sharply rebuked the official whose duty it is to enlighten him on all matters relating to foreign affairs, and then imposed upon the Imperial Household Department the task of procuring foreign translated works for him, instead of the *Waiwupu*. His Majesty also commanded that the sum of Tls. 70,000 should be at once set aside for the purchase of those books, and that upon arrival at Peking they should be taken charge of by the officials of the Imperial Library (Shang Shu-yuan) who are to hand up to the Emperor the books in succession as he has finished one after another. Being a rapid and voluminous reader it is reckoned that his Majesty will be able to complete the perusal of these translated works at an average of a book a day of about three hundred pages, large type.

The same correspondent at Peking states that the Empress Dowager has listened favourably to the suggestion of Prince Ching to appoint a Prince of the Imperial House to the post of Chief Commissioner General for China at the Exposition at Brussels next year. This sending of a Prince to Brussels is intended to be an acknowledgement of the courtesy and kindness which King Leopold of Belgium has extended to Chinese students who have gone to that country to study at the special invitation of its King.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE REPORTED ARMING OF CHINA.

A Chinese official of high rank recently arrived at Shanghai from Peking, and was interviewed by Mr. S. T. Laisun. Speaking of certain rumours among foreigners that China was arming preparatory to another war with the "Barbarians of the West," he warmly denied the imputation, from his own knowledge of affairs in general. The Chinese Government, he said, is aware of its weakness in the matter of well and properly drilled troops which puts the country at the mercy of the first aggressive Power. This, it is only natural, all patriotic officials are determined to remedy, without delay. China, as a rule, moves slowly, but what she fears is partition, and this very apprehension makes her officials work feverishly towards the desired end of making China strong enough to prevent such a catastrophe. Then there is the war in Manchuria, the end of which no one can foresee, and all Chinese feel the need of having a strong army to hold these three provinces no matter how the War will turn out, for there is no intention to allow the cradle of the dynasty to be wrested perpetually by an alien Power. All these are incentives to all Chinese officials (Manchus, of course, are also included in the term "Chinese") to raise a strong well-drilled and modern-armed Army without delay so as to be ready for all such eventualities as have been noted in the foregoing. There is, according to the sincere opinion of the interviewed mandarin, not the slightest cause for anxiety on the part of foreigners in China of a second and a greater "Boxer" war in the near future. Sentiment about foreigners in China has changed since 1900 and is still changing, until in a short time anti-foreign mobs will be the exception rather than the rule. When the Government possesses a numerous and properly equipped army so much less will there be the chance of mob rule and riots of any sort or colour; anti-mandarin, or anti-foreign. Indeed, since the last two or three months this feverish anxiety to raise and arm additional armies in the Northern, Central and Southern provinces has become accentuated rather than lessened, as from secret reports received from various Chinese Ministers abroad there are fears in Europe and America that the war between Japan and Russia is drawing other nations into the warlike arena, and that by the spring of next year no one need be surprised if he sees a general war on the two continents of Europe and Asia. Then where would poor China be, if she remains as weak as after the disastrous year of 1900? This danger is fully recognised at Peking and the Government is quite naturally and properly preparing for eventualities. But a general anti-foreign war is out of the question; the lessons of 1900 are too recent

THE WEIHAIWEI SCHOOL.

The District magistrate (Mr. R. F. Johnston, formerly of Hongkong) distributed the prizes at this school on Nov. 16th. The Headmaster reported that this was the second event of the kind. He had 23 boarder-pupils, and only one day scholar. Formerly there were eleven day boys. The number would increase when the war was over. They were too near the scene of hostilities to expect more at present. The pupils came from the most northerly treaty port, and one from the most southern. "If Weihaiwei is to be the regular summer resort and sanitarium of the China fleet, the authorities here will prevent the crowding together of a large native population, and that, as in Hongkong at the eleventh hour it has been decided to reserve the Peak for foreigners only, so here certain districts will be marked off for European residences and only a limited number of Chinese allowed to reside therein. The Germans at Tsingtao have, I believe, already done this."

Mr. Johnston thought the school was not sufficiently known, at any rate in Hongkong. "People there might know in a vague sense of the existence of a school here, but as regards its excellent situation, the climate, the surroundings, the suitability of the new premises, the qualifications of the staff, the standard of education, the parent in Hongkong who had sons ready for school was, as a rule, in ignorance."

"SHREWSBURY" WRECKED.

The s.s. *Shrewsbury* is wrecked on Bombay Reef. H.M.S. *Rosario* brought the news.

The *Shrewsbury* left Singapore for Hongkong on the 10th ult., and ran on the reef at midnight seven days later. The wind was strong from the north-west at the time, and an abnormal current is said to have set the steamer about thirty miles out of her course in twelve hours. She ran on the coral about a mile distant from the wreck of the *Baron Gordon*. For seventeen days the crew were unable to attract the attention of passing steamers, and were about to take to the boats when the *Rosario* came to the rescue. The vessel was then lying down by the stern, with her hull damaged to such an extent that little hope is entertained of saving her. The *Rosario* approached close to the wreck, which lay on a table of coral with deep water quite near it. No. 1 and 2 holds were practically full, and No. 4 was making water rapidly. The engine room and stokeholds were also awash. By soundings, there was about 22 feet forward and nine feet aft. The vessel will probably break her back. The lascar crew is said to have shown lack of grit when the accident occurred. The crew numbered 43 all told, eight being Europeans and the rest Indians. Everything moveable worth saving was taken on board the *Rosario*.

The *Shrewsbury* is a steel screw steamer of 3,223 tons and was built at Glasgow by Messrs. W. Hamilton and Co. in 1898. Her owners were Messrs. Galbraith, Pembroke and Company, of London, and local agents Messrs. Melchers and Company. She had a cargo of about 5,000 tons of Welsh steam coal aboard, consigned to the Admiralty.

NEW ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH.

LAYING OF THE FOUNDATION STONE

The ceremony of the laying and the blessing of the foundation stone of the New Roman Catholic Church at Kowloon took place on the 10th instant before a fairly large gathering of ladies and gentlemen and the clergy. In the absence of the Right Rev. Bishop Piazzoli, the Pro-Vicar Apostolic, the Very Rev. P. de Maria performed the ceremony assisted by the Revs. P. de Gabardi and G. Spada. After some short prayers, Father de Maria blessed the stone, sprinkling it with holy water, and after spreading some mortar with a silver trowel, the stone was lowered into its place, and was solemnly declared to be well and truly laid. The clergy then went round the foundation of the Church in procession, sprinkling holy water upon it. After this

ceremony, the Rev. Father Spada, the acting vicar for the district of Kowloon, addressed the gathering. He said that the new church, which is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin of Pompeii, was the gift of Dr. A. S. Gomes in loving memory of his dear parents and sister, and as an act of his love and veneration to the Blessed Virgin. The Catholic community of Kowloon were feeling for a time the necessity of a more spacious church in consequence of the increasing number of Roman Catholics residing there, but their wish could not be realized owing to want of funds, which were now fortunately provided through the spontaneous generosity of Dr. Gomes. It was a happy idea of Dr. Gomes to erect this new church in honour of the Blessed Virgin in this the Jubilee year of the proclamation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception; and this church will ever remain as a lasting memento to the future posterity of the Roman Catholics in Hongkong and Kowloon of the piety and devotion of its generous donor. This solemn ceremony just performed by the Pro-Vicar Apostolic, reminds him of Monsignor Piazzoli, who, he is sure, is among all those present and participating in spirit with their joy on this occasion, he, who has always cherished the wish of seeing this church erected. Father Spada concluded by calling upon all present to join him in expressing their grateful thanks to Dr. Gomes for providing the necessary funds for the construction of this church, for the inauguration and consecration of which in the coming year he hopes to have a still more solemn and agreeable ceremony. Three cheers were then called for Dr. Gomes, who bowed his acknowledgment. The party then adjourned to the Chapel for the Benediction, after which tea and cakes were provided in the school rooms of the Italian Sisters of Charity close by. The stone bore the following inscription in Latin:—"In the Faith of Jesus Christ. This first stone was laid by the Very Rev. P. de Maria, Pro-Vicar Apostolic, on the 10th December, 1904, in the year of Our Lord 1904."

FURTHER FIRES.

On the night of the 10th instant a fire broke out in a bamboo matting and hemp shop at No. 108, Bonham Strand East. The fire had spread from the ground to the first floor when the brigade, under the command of the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Mr. Hallifax, arrived on the scene. After a few hours of hard fighting the flames were got under, but not before the first floor was gutted, and the goods on the ground floor practically destroyed by water. The fire was caused through the capsizing of a kerosene lamp into some loose hemp. The premises were insured in the Royal Insurance Company for \$4,000, and the goods in the North British Mercantile Insurance Company for a similar amount. The damage by fire and water is estimated at \$10,000. There was no injury or loss of life in connection with the outbreak.

FROM KOWLOON SIDE.

Another outbreak occurred at the Indian Military Matsheds at about 2 o'clock on Saturday afternoon. Catching a hold on the dry matting, the flames spread very rapidly, and catching on to the boiler works at Pong See Sing, reduced them to a heap of burning embers. The interned Russians checked the progress of the flames by setting to work and pulling down some engineering sheds in the course the fire was taking. The fire brigade were quickly on the scene, but could do practically nothing. The origin of the fire is unknown. The damage is estimated at \$10,000.

The s.s. *Indravelli*, which is being fitted up in the Hongkong and Whampoa docks for the South African coolie trade, was the scene of another blaze. The brigade under Inspector Macdonald were soon on the spot and had the fire under way before any serious damage resulted. How the outbreak occurred is unknown. In this fire Police Sergeant Counsell sustained severe injuries about the body. He was admitted to Hospital, but from latest accounts is progressing favourably.

CHRISTIANITY IN S. CHINA.

A meeting was held in the Wesleyan Methodist Church in Wanchai, of which the Rev. Mr. W. Bridie is the Chaplain, on the 14th inst., when missionary work was discussed. The Rev. Mr. C. H. Hickling opened the proceedings with prayer. Mr. George Corderoy took the chair. He asked Mr. Bridie to deal with the report for the past year.

In doing so Mr. Bridie spoke of Wesleyan Methodist work in all parts of the world, particularly mentioning the progress made in South Africa and Asia. The recent progress in China had astonished the Churches. Now that coolies were being sent to South Africa, where some 100,000 Chinese will be gathered, there was another question for the Churches to face. He also alluded to the Wesleyan Methodist work in connection with the Army and Navy.

Mr. Corderoy said that in China many difficulties had to be faced. The language, for instance, and, besides, there was a well-established religion very good in its moral teachings and hoary with antiquity. A great deal, however, had been achieved, and the tide of missionary work in England was on increase. An undoubted change, he had been told, was coming over the people in South China as a consequence of missionary work. He called upon the Rev. Mr. Chan Lai Tong to give some reminiscences.

The Rev. Mr. Chan, interpreted by the Rev. Mr. Bridie said that he became a Christian some 50 years ago. At that time there was only one church and one hospital at Canton. He was the third convert in Canton, where missionary work in China first commenced. Missionaries went up river from Hongkong. Then the Taiping Rebellion broke out. The originator of this had taken some Christian books into the interior, and the "Taipingas," curiously enough, destroyed idols, kept the Sabbath and bowed down in the manner of saying grace before meals. Next came a rebel siege of Canton. The missionaries tended the wounded and thus earned the respect of the people. In those days about twenty attended at the prayer meetings. When war broke out against England the mission churches at Canton were destroyed, and the missionaries sought refuge at Macao. When peace was restored, the churches were re-established and others outside the former limits were built. Christianity spread. The Chinese in those days had an idea that the European doctors were only expert at curing wounds, sores, etc., and were no good for internal complaints. The Chinese doses of medicine were so much larger than the European doses—the only real physicians were those of the Middle Kingdom. As the number of converts increased, so also the opposition increased. Some Chinese who became Christians were martyred. There was an idea that if they became Christians they would be used as soldiers for Europeans, and learn to despise their ancestors. But people gradually became more favourably inclined towards Christianity. Against the three Chinese Christians at Canton when he became one there were now 3,000. (Applause).

After some further speeches a very pleasant meeting came to a close.

JURORS IN TROUBLE.

Messrs Barlow and H. Kempf appeared before Mr. H. H. J. Gompertz at the Magistracy on the 14th instant to explain why they absented themselves from an inquest after having received a summons to attend. Mr. Barlow said he had made a mistake as to the date of the inquiry. As he had written a letter of apology to Mr. Melbourne, Chief Clerk at the Magistracy, the Coroner accepted it.

Mr. Kempf said he had forgotten all about the inquiry.

The Coroner: It is very inconvenient if jurors do not turn up, and the inquiry has to be postponed. I made no public mention of the matter at the time, because, when a gentleman forgets it is usual for him to write an apology to Mr. Melbourne.

Mr. Kempf: I was taken up with rather important business, and the inquiry quite slipped my memory.

The Coroner: You are fined \$1.

H.E. THE GOVERNOR AND HIS BROTHERS.

The following extracts are taken from the *Jewish World*—

The appointment of Mr. Robert Nathan as Private Secretary to the Viceroy of India is, apart from the high importance of the office, one of an extremely interesting nature, for it brings the fourth of a set of brothers, all of whom have done brilliantly, to the notice of the public in England. It is seldom indeed that four sons, three of them still comparatively young, make such marked note as have these of the late M. Jonah Nathan. Perhaps the best known is Major Sir Matthew Nathan, who, at the age of 42, may be said to have had a remarkable career. Gazetted to the Royal Engineers, from the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich, in 1880, his active connection with the corps lasted for 19 years, during which time he was on active service twice, in 1885 with the Nile Force for the relief of Gordon, and four years later with the Lushai Expedition. In 1895 he was selected as Secretary of the Colonial Defence Committee, and his services in this connection were recognised by the conferment of a C.M.G., enhanced to K.C.M.G. in 1902. After administering the Government of Sierra Leone in 1889, the following year he was appointed Governor of the Gold Coast, which position he retained for three years, at the end of which time he was none the worse in health for the long stay in the part of the world known as "the white man's grave." Sir Matthew was the first Jew appointed to a Colonial Governorship.

His brother in the sister branch of the scientific divisions of the Army was soon marked out for special advancement. He, too, graduated at the Royal Military Academy, which, it may be explained to the lay mind, is the training college for cadets for the Royal Engineers and the Royal Artillery, the students for cavalry and the infantry receiving their tuition at the Royal Military College, Sandhurst. Major F. L. Nathan entered the Royal Artillery in 1879 and in 1886 he passed the final examination of the Advanced Class of the Ordnance College and was appointed Captain Instructor of the Royal Laboratory. Two years later he was made Second Assistant to the Deputy Governor of the Ordnance Factory, and four years after that was nominated to the onerous post of officer in charge of Danger Buildings at the Royal Gunpowder Factory, Waltham Abbey. This he retained for seven years, when he was made Assistant Superintendent of the Factory, and the next year promoted Superintendent. A third brother, the eldest, went to the law, and it might be supposed would be out of notice in England when stationed in the out-of-the-way West Indies. However, he, too, has made his mark. He was made a Magistrate in Jamaica in 1888; Judge of the Supreme Court, at Kingston in 1891; advanced to the Senior Puisne Judgeship of Trinidad in 1893; received the Attorney-Generalship of Trinidad and Tobago in 1898, and from the courtesy title of Hon. he was this year knighted and became Sir Nathaniel Nathan.

The fourth brother also found his lines cast abroad. Taking his degree of B.A. at St. Peter's College, he, a barrister, entered the Bengal Civil Service in 1888, serving as Assistant Magistrate and Collector, Settlement Officer, Joint Magistrate, and similar functions which are special to the great dependency. Subsequently he became Under Secretary to the Government of India in the Financial and Commercial Department. This was in 1895, and two years later he was transferred to the Home Department, and in 1900 made Magistrate and Collector. In 1902, Mr. Robert Nathan was Secretary to the Indian Universities Commission, and now he reaches the high post of Private Secretary to the Viceroy. The power and responsibilities which are vested in that office can be easily realised when it is remembered that India is not governed on the Parliamentary system of England and that immense power is placed in the hands of the King's representative, who naturally finds his task made easier or more difficult by the staff with which he is surrounded, of which the Private Secretary is naturally one of the most important.

POOR CHINESE ORPHANS.

BAZAAR IN AID OF ASILE DE LA SAINTE ENFANCE.

A bazaar in aid of the poor Chinese orphans of the Asile de la Sainte Enfance, under the patronage of His Excellency Sir Matthew Nathan, K.C.M.G., was held at the City Hall on the 14th instant. The sale of needle and fancy works made by the orphans, commenced at two o'clock, ladies of Hongkong being in charge of the various stalls. The band of the 114th Mahrattas was in attendance. His Excellency the Governor paid the bazaar a visit at about half-past three. The various stall holders were as follows:—

Mrs. May, Mrs. Villiers Hatton, Mrs. Dicken, Mrs. Liebert, Mrs. Siebs, Mrs. Marty, Mrs. Tomes, Mrs. Gordon, Mrs. Bailey, Mrs. Lamert, Mrs. Kent, Mrs. Justi, Mrs. Caulfield, Mrs. Atkinson, Mrs. Volpicelli, Mrs. Post, Mrs. Basil Taylor, Mrs. Hinds, Mrs. Harker, Mrs. Goetz, Mrs. Berindaogua, Mrs. Bridon, Mrs. Seth, Mrs. Guibert, Mrs. Haver Droeze, Mrs. Bateson-Wright, Mrs. Wendt, Mrs. Schröter, Mrs. Tilden, Miss Berkeley, Mrs. Maitland, Miss Bird, Miss Shaw, Miss Murray Bain, Miss Shaw, Mrs. Ram, Miss Blair, Miss Barnes Lawrence, Mrs. Krüger, Miss Siebs, Miss Heermann, Miss Stella May, Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Suter, Miss Hancock, Mrs. Heermann, Mrs. Bergfeld, Mrs. Gershom-tewat, Mrs. Cruickshank, Miss Marjorie Berkeley, Miss Nancy Playfair, Miss Phoebe May, Miss Wallace, Mrs. Parr, Mrs. Bentinck, Mrs. Bell, Mrs. Gray Scott, Miss G. Tomes and Miss E. Tomes.

Asile de la Sainte Enfance is a charitable institution run by French sisters. There are, including children, adults, infirm and old, about 400 orphans housed there. Many of the little girls, dressed neatly, were at the City Hall yesterday afternoon. The orphan inmates of the institution make lace and embroidery for ladies' and children's clothing, and many other articles, such as pillows, quilts, clothing, dusters, towels, etc. The work is really excellent, and all orders are promptly attended to.

HONGKONG GUN CLUB.

On the 10th instant the members of the Hongkong Gun Club were at home to their friends to celebrate the shoot off for the Championship of 1904.

A bright afternoon was made the more cheery by the presence of many ladies, amongst whom were Mrs. Johnston, Mrs. P. N. H. Jones, Mrs. Cruickshank, Mrs. Tomes, Mrs. Turner, Mrs. Moxon, Miss Bird, and the Misses Berkeley.

The President of the Club, the Hon. W. J. Gresson, was present and several friends of members.

The result of the Championship was a win for Mr. A. Campbell Macmillan—who was also last year's champion.

The leading scores were (out of 20 birds—15 yards rise):—

Mr. A. C. Macmillan	...	18 birds
Mr. G. C. Moxon	...	15 "
Mr. H. W. Looker	...	14 "
Mr. E. E. Deacon	...	14 "

After the Championship there was a ladies' nomination in which (after a tie) Mr. Looker secured the first prize for Mrs. Tomes and Mr. Brooke Smith the second for Mrs. Hornby. Tea and refreshments terminated a very jolly afternoon.

The old jape about blowing the gas out has just had a fatal illustration at Shanghai. It occurred in French Town on the 3rd inst. When the premises belonging to Messrs. Rouget and Co. at No. 4, Rue de la Guerre were opened those who tried to enter the office were nearly suffocated by an escape of gas. When the air became a little clearer it was seen that there were three coolies lying apparently lifeless on the floor. They were at once brought out, but in spite of all efforts only two of them could be brought to life. The men had no right in the office at all. They were supposed to sleep in the godown, but apparently they were in the habit of going to sleep in the private office and lighting the gas stove there.

HONGKONG.

An Indian who died in the match at the New Supreme Court was officially reported yesterday as having died of plague.

The plague return for last week records three cases, all fatal. The year's total is now 508, with 493 fatalities. There were five cases of enteric fever, three of them imported.

A billiard match between Sergeant Major Finlan of Wellington Barracks and Sergeant Deasley of the R.A.M.C., two crack players, was played at the Barracks Dec. 12th. The game was 300 up, and was won by the Sergeant-Major by 140.

Return of visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 11th December, 1904, were 247 non-Chinese and 108 Chinese to the former, and 118 non-Chinese and 1,687 Chinese to the latter institution.

During the hearing of the inquest at the Magistracy on December 14 the Coroner asked a witness whether she noticed anything peculiar about the deceased. "She was very good," replied the witness. "Peace be unto her ashes," solemnly remarked a medico in attendance in an undertone.

As a plain-clothes constable was walking along Sin Hing Lane on Dec. 14 he noticed a Chinaman whom he "wanted" on a charge of larceny. The Chinaman saw him, and ran away. The constable, accompanied by another, gave chase. The man ran into a house in the lane, closely followed by his pursuers. On reaching the second floor, the Chinaman jumped from the verandah to the ground, where he was picked up. He was taken to the Government Civil Hospital, and died shortly afterwards. The man's name is at present unknown. It is believed he was a man returned from banishment.

Mr. William Stanton, who was for some years Chief Detective Inspector in the Hongkong Police force, still retains a passion for the public service. By the last Mail (Dec. 14.) we learn that he has been elected a member of the borough council for Liskeard, his native Cornish town, where he has made himself extremely popular. His many natural abilities fit him for the arduous work that will be demanded of him on committees and in the Council Chamber. In congratulating Liskeard on its choice, we may also wish Mr. Councillor Stanton a long and prosperous career in the civic service.

Early on the 15th inst., at the Government Civil Hospital, the death occurred of Inspector James Williamson, until recently a familiar figure in our local police force. About a fortnight ago he was stricken by paralysis, and removed to the Hospital. The deceased was a native of the Shetland Islands, and was transferred to Hongkong from the Glasgow Police Force in 1886. He was a most popular officer, and had been in charge of Aberdeen Station. He leaves a widow and daughter, with numerous friends, to mourn his loss. The funeral takes place this afternoon.

Chinese "doctor" Leung Tak Ming was before the Court for obtaining money under false pretences. It was said that as Lai Chan was walking along Queen's Road near Circular Pathway he was accosted by one of the doctor's touts, who informed him that he was suffering from consumption. Lai Chan was very much surprised to hear this, and of course asked "What must I do to be cured?" The tout immediately took him to the doctor, who, of course, tried the needle cure. "Now, I'm going to run this needle through you," said the doctor. "Hold your head up." Lai held his head up and felt a prick, and shortly afterwards the medico informed him that the needle was in his chest. He asked for all the money the gull had on him which was \$14.50, and then quietly informed his patient that he could not extract the needle until he was paid \$8 more. Lai Chan went to his clansman to borrow the required amount, but this man told him it was all a hoax and went with him to the doctor and demanded the return of the money. This the doctor refused until a European constable was called in, when he yielded. The doctor stated that the complainant had called asking for a prescription, and as His Worship believed this, he dismissed the case.

A Chinese farmer from the New Territory who was travelling on a tram car near Causeway Bay yesterday, jumped off while the car was in motion. He fell on his head, and sustained injuries from which he succumbed shortly after admission to the Government Civil Hospital.

At about 8 p.m. on the 10th inst. the wife of a Chinese Missionary teacher at Cheong Chan Kin committed suicide by hanging herself to the rafters of the house during a fit of temper. She was in such a rage that her husband was afraid to approach her, and made off for assistance. When he returned with some friends to console her, they found her dead body hanging from a beam.

The Army transport steamer *Dilwara* has arrived from Home with troops for Hongkong. There were a number of men for the Royal West Kent Regiment from England, and two companies of Royal Garrison Artillery, the 87th and 88th, from Ceylon. The men landed at about ten o'clock yesterday morning, and were played in by the band of the Royal West Kents. The details altogether consist of five officers, 77 men of the Royal West Kent Regiment, 48 of the Royal Garrison Artillery, 25 of the Royal Army Medical Corps, 17 of the Army Ordnance Corps, and some families. Colonel Darling, R.E., the relief of Colonel L. F. Brown, C.R.E., was in command.

FAR EASTERN ITEMS.

The *Foochow Echo* hears that the New Viceroy has strictly prohibited access to the City after the closing of the gates about 6.30 p.m. Hitherto it has always been possible to obtain ingress or egress by ladders and ropes, which has proved a remunerative business for those conducting it; but it is evident that this little game is stopped, at least for the present.

The *Sishan* evidently failed in her attempt to reach Port Arthur, and put into Chefoo, and has returned to Shanghai with her original cargo. The *N.-C. Daily News* says that the *Peiping*, which is reported to have twice evaded the Japanese blockading squadron, now loads from lighters amongst the shoals at the back of the Shaluiten lighthouse, thirty-two miles east of Taku.

One of the earlier works dealing with the struggle in the Far East will be Mr. T. Cowen's "Russo-Japanese War," which Mr. Edward Arnold has in preparation. The author is familiar with the scenes of the principal conflicts on sea and land, and gives a comprehensive description of the topographical characteristics of both Corea and Manchuria. Mr. Cowen is a very able newspaper man, well known in Japan, China, and Corea.

The *Universal Gazette* says that the Board of Revenue is trying to raise a foreign loan by mortgaging the likin revenue in the province of Shansi, with the net receipt of 95 per cent. of the face value of the bonds. The loan will be raised in Belgium. The Belgian Minister at Peking has now concluded the arrangement with Chow Erh-hsen, the President of the Board of Revenue, and the minister has wired the result of the preliminary arrangement, etc., to the syndicate of banks in Belgium.

Mr. A. H. Ahrens of Shanghai was found dead in his bed at his residence on the 5th inst. The German Consular authorities were called in, and from the circumstances it would seem that deceased committed suicide by poison. He made a will only a few days before and left a note containing directions for his burial. At half-past nine the previous night deceased was at the Masonic Club and appeared in his usual health and spirits. He was a well known business man, aged forty years.

The *N.-C. Daily News* announces the death of Mr. Dzan Kit-foo, which occurred on Dec. 4 at Shanghai. Mr. Dzan was one of the first students sent out by the Chinese Government for education in America, most of whom have succeeded in making a mark for themselves since their return to China. He was an able English scholar and was connected with some of the legal firms there. He leaves a widow, four daughters, and a son to mourn his loss, and to them a very large number of both his foreign and Chinese friends extend sympathy.

TRADE ITEMS.

The Secretaries of the Weihaiwei Gold Mining Company have reported the results of the first month's crushing, as follows:—"1900 tons, bullion 87 ounces of gold, 59 ounces silver. Concentrates 79 ounces of gold and 468 silver."

Out of seventy-three vessels in Hongkong Harbour on the 13th inst. 43 were British, 14 German, five Norwegian, five American, two Chinese, one Japanese, two French, and one Italian.

A prospectus of the chartered British Cotton-Growing Association proposes an increase of share capital (from a guarantee fund of £50,000) to £500,000. It is stated that Colonial Governments are carrying out experiments, and that the scope of the Association needs to be greatly enlarged.

Japan's export of soap to China has been increasing of late, says the Monthly Report of the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce. The Chinese have been using a peculiar kind of soap known as *ishi*, which is made of animal fat and powdered beans, and afterwards spiced with various substances. It is put up in porcelain vessels which cost from eight to ten cents. The Chinese are beginning to realize that it is more economical to use better soap.

Mr. Reginald Murray, of the Calcutta Commercial Bank, has written a memorandum on the question of stamp duties and blank transfers, which is being circulated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Murray suggests that blank transfers should be given a recognised standing as legal tender, provided they are dated by the seller, and that their currency as such should be recognised for a period not exceeding three months from the date of sale, and that blank transfers undated or remaining uncompleted for more than three months shall not be recognised as legal tender.

A Peking letter states that certain gentry of Shansi province have petitioned the Shanpu for permission to establish a Department of Forestry in that province, to preserve as well as extend the treebearing region; there, for which work it is proposed to engage a foreign expert, possibly from the Taiyuan Agricultural College. As there is also a vast extent of rich grass lands on the Shansi-Mongolia frontiers, outside the Great Wall, it is further proposed to stock them with cattle and horses, the latter specially with the object of furnishing cavalry remounts for the Imperial Army.

The failure of Messrs. Dymes & Co., Madras, is announced. No authentic details of the failure are available except that the cause is losses in cotton. It is rumoured that the liabilities amount to 7 lakhs, and the assets to two lakhs. Mr. Greig, of the Bank of Madras, and Messrs. Greerson and Mitchell, of Messrs. Dymes & Co., have been appointed to wind up the affairs of the firm, and are said to be hopeful of re-constructing and resuming business shortly. The firm was carrying on a cotton business of long standing, and has, we are told, a great deal of sympathy. It was known that it was embarrassed by difficulties consequent on the cotton depression at home. Mr. J. K. Greig, who is one of the liquidators, is the Secretary and Treasurer of the Bank of Madras.

The Yokohama Chamber of Commerce publishes a coloured diagram showing the rice (*sic*) and fall of sugar imports, during the past ten years. The years 1898 and 1901 saw the largest quantity and value of brown sugar imported. Refined sugar, making a spur to two and a quarter million piculs in 1897, was much less in all subsequent years but 1901 (when the value was much greater) until 1903, when the record of nearly three million piculs, worth nearly fifteen million yen, was imported, more than half of it at Yokohama. Last year brown sugar had dropped to one million piculs. Another diagram shows how woefully Hongkong exports to Japan have fallen off since 1894. Then it was about half the total, mostly refined sugar. In 1903 it was less than one-eighth, brown sugar slightly preponderating. Dutch India sends the lion's share, nearly half, with the Philippines a good second. China has dropped from nearly a third to a poor eighth. New contributors are Germany and Austria, about one-eighth each.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

CANTON, 19th November, 1904.—Seventh Crop.—Owing to the unusual rainy weather during last month, the 7th crop promised at first to be rather large; but finally the "rendement" of Cocoons is poor, and there will only be available for export about 2,000 bales. Long-reels.—Since our last prices have been forced up to a very high level by the recent excited buying for Europe and the market in the interior has risen considerably under that influence. Purchases during the fortnight for Europe amount to about 3,000 bales comprising all grades and sizes. Most of the Reelers, having sold out their stock, and contracted for their production for some time to come, ask now extremely high prices; thus further business is checked. From sales made in different crops we quote: Fil. Wing Cheong Sing 11/13 at \$985; Wing Wo Lun 9/11 at \$955; Sui Lun Hing 10/12 at \$925; Ling Chai 11/13 at \$925; Shun Kee 13/15 at \$900; Sun Yue Lun 16/18 at \$845; Wai King Wo 18/22 at \$760; Soey Wo Chong 11/13 at \$840; Quan Wo Hing 11/13, 13/15, 14/18 at \$790. Short-reels.—The demand has been reviving for America, and many forward contracts have been placed at advancing prices, \$885 has been paid for Hau King Long 14/16. Waste Silk.—Has ruled irregularly some settlements were made early in the fortnight at easier prices; but latterly advancing Exchange has put buyers out of the market.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 16th Dec.—Few demands having come forward, the prices are declining. Shekloong, No. 1, White.....\$8.45 to \$8.50 pcls. Do. " 2, White..... 7.70 to 7.75 " Do. " 1, Brown..... 6.20 to 6.25 " Do. " 2, Brown..... 5.90 to 5.95 " Swatow, No. 1, White..... 8.40 to 8.45 " Do. " 2, White..... 7.50 to 7.55 " Do. " 1, Brown..... 5.75 to 5.80 " Do. " 2, Brown..... 4.85 to 4.90 " Foochow Sugar Candy12.75 to 12.80 " Shekloong "10.80 to 10.85 "

RICE.

HONGKONG, 16th Dec.—The prices are going downward, market being weak. Saigon, Ordinary.....\$2.40 to \$2.45 " Round, good quality 4.00 to 4.05 " Long..... 4.25 to 4.35 Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2 2.55 to 2.65 " Garden, " No. 1 2.80 to 2.85 " White, 4.05 to 4.10 " Fine Cargo 4.35 to 4.40

OPIUM.

HONGKONG, 15th December, 1904.—Since 1st December, the movements in our various Opium markets have been as follows:—

Malwa, Patna, Benares, Persian.				
Stocks as per circular of				
1st December, 1904.	1,247	2,340	1,539	2,059
Dec. 3rd Imports per Bengal	375	100	50	291
Dec. 7th " " Nam Sang	—	935	65	—
Dec. 15th " " A Apar	—	50	—	—
Less Exports to Shanghai	1,622	3,225	1,654	2,350
Less Exports to East and West Coast Ports including Local Consumption for the fortnight.	155	285	145	—
Estimated Stocks this day	1,307	2,378	1,129	2,037

Bengal.—After declining to \$1,125 for Patna and \$1,105 for Benares, a speculative demand arose and prices advanced to \$1,147½ for Patna and \$1,107½ for Benares. We close quiet.

Malwa.—The market is quiet and the demand very small. The following are about the quotations:—

New	\$1,080
2 years old	\$1,130
3 " "	\$1,160
4/5 " "	\$1,220
Oldest	\$1,260

Persian.—Prices for good quality are steady @ \$850/900

16th December.	
Quotations are:— Allow'ce net. to 1 catty.	
Malwa New	\$1100 to \$1130 per picul.
Malwa Old	\$1170 to \$1200 do.
Malwa Older	\$1250 to \$1270 do.
Malwa V. Old	\$1300 to \$1330 do.
Persian fine quality	\$880 to do.
Persian extra fine	\$900 to do.
Patna New	\$1125 to per chest.
Patna Old	\$ — to do.
Benares New	\$1100 to do.
Benares Old	\$ — to do.

COAL.

Messrs. Hughes and Hough, in their coal report of to-day's date, state that seven steamers are expected at Hongkong with a total of 21,500 tons of Japan coal and 3,000 tons of Hongay. Since 2nd December 37,900 tons of Japan coal have arrived, all sold. The market is firm, owing to extensive speculation in Japanese coal among the Chinese operators. Quotations:—

Cardiff	\$18.00 ex-ship.
Australian	\$11.00 ex-ship.
Yubari Lump	\$12.00 ex-ship, nominal
Miki Lump	\$10.00 ex-ship, nominal
Moji Lump	\$6.50 to 10.00 ex-ship, steady

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 16th Dec.—Small business, market easier by \$3 per picul. Stock about 2,000 bales. Bombay.....\$25.00 to 27.00 per pic. Bengal (New), Rangoon } 26.00 to 37.00 " and Dacca } " Shanghai and Japanese. 29.00 to 30.00 " Tungchow and Ningpo. 29.00 to 30.00 " Reported sales 150 bales.

YARN.

Mr. Eduljee, in his report, dated Hongkong 16th December, says:—The violent fluctuations on the other side have been mostly reflected in our yarn market. A smart decline in the prices of raw cotton in America, combined with a steady advancing exchange, has had the effect of greatly weakening holders, and goods have been freely offered in all directions, irrespective of cost, without inducing any business worthy of note. Buyers are holding severely aloof, the settlements of the fortnight barely amounting to 2,500 bales, and purchases confined to special chops and immediate urgent requirements. Values show a further depreciation of \$3 to \$4 per bale and are weak at the close, and dealers, having in view the lower cost of importations, and the weak and declining condition of our large neighbouring markets, expect a lower range of values ruling in the near future, and prospects ahead are far from assuring.

Local Manufacture:—Rates are maintained and fresh forward contracts of about 600 bales, Nos. 10s at \$113 and \$114 have been entered into. Japanese Yarn:—Importations have been checked by higher prices ruling in Japan, and sales, out of stock, of 500 bales No. 20s have been reported, say, Yellow Joss at \$132, and Red Peacock and Three Rings at \$140.

Raw Cotton:—Prices of both Bengal and China staples have again tended in a downward direction, and we have to advise a further drop of \$2 per Picul. Bengals are quiet with little or no inquiry, and the sale of 100 bales Thoongchow at \$28 is the only business of the interval. There are in stock about 2,100 bales Indian and 760 bales China cotton. Quotations are Bengal \$24 to \$27, and China \$27 to \$29.

Exchange on India has steadily advanced in sympathy with the values of barsilver and closes firm to-day at Rs. 143½ for T/T and Rs. 143½ for Post. On Shanghai 71½; on Yokohama 94½.

The undernoted business in imported and local spinings is reported from Shanghai during the fortnight ended the 2nd instant, viz:—

Indian:—A fairly large business has been done, sales amounting to 5,700 bales at a decline of half a Tael in Nos. 12s and 16s, and of a Tael and a half in Nos. 10s and 20s, market closing steady with an estimated unsold stock of 32,000 bales.

Japanese:—Business is restricted by shortness of supply consequent on high prices ruling in Japan. Sales amount to 2,500 bales with basis of Tls. 94½ to Tls. 101 for No. 16s, and Tls. 102½ to Tls. 107½ for No. 20s, prices showing an advance of nearly two Taels. Closing strong.

Local:—The mills are working full time on their forward contracts, and fresh business done has been the sale of 2,000 bales of a well known spinning on the basis of Tls. 92½ for No. 12s, Tls. 94 for No. 14s, and Tls. 96 for No. 16s.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th December.—The prices ruling are as follows:—

COTTON YARN—		per bale
Bombay—Nos. 10 to 20, ...	\$90.00 to \$128.00	
English—Nos. 16 to 24, ...	140.00 to 160.00	
" " 22 to 24, ...	160.00 to 165.00	
" " 28 to 32, ...	167.50 to 175.00	
" " 38 to 42, ...	180.00 to 190.00	
Reported sales 10,000 bales.		

COTTON PIECE GOODS—		per piece
Grey Shirtings—6 lbs.	2.20 to 2.25	
" " 7 lbs.	2.30 to 2.40	
" " 8.4 lbs.	3.00 to 4.00	
" " 9 to 10 lbs.	4.10 to 5.30	

COTTON PIECE GOODS—

		per piece
White Shirtings—54 to 56 rd.	2.80 to 3.00	
" " 58 to 60 "	3.10 to 3.60	
" " 64 to 66 "	3.80 to 5.40	
Fine 6.10 to 8.00		
Book-folds 5.80 to 8.10		
Victoria Lawns—12 yards	0.80 to 1.00	
T-Cloths—6lbs. (32 in.), Ord'y.	2.20 to 2.30	
" " 7lbs. (32 "), "	2.70 to 3.00	
" " 6lbs. (32 "), Mexs.	2.25 to 2.70	
" " 7lbs. (32 "), "	2.90 to 3.20	
" " 8 to 8.4 oz., (36 in.)	3.25 to 3.80	
Drills, English—40 yds., 13½ " to 14 lbs.	5.10 to 8.00	

FANCY COTTONS—

Turkey Red Shirtings—1½ to 8 lbs.	1.75 to 4.00
	per yard
Brocades—Dyed	0.18 to 0.14
Damasks.....	—
Chintzes—Assorted	0.08½ to 0.20
Velvets—Black, 22 in.	0.23 to 0.50
Velveteens—18 in.	0.23 to 0.27
	per dozen
Handkerchiefs—Imitation Silk	0.56 to 1.25

HONGKONG QUOTATIONS.

HONGKONG, 16th December, 1904

Beans	\$3½
Borax	\$14 @ 16
Camphor (China)	\$117
" (Formosa)	\$120
Cassia (First quality)	\$21
" (Second ")	\$14
" Oil	\$161
Cloves	\$20 @ 37
Fennel Seed Oil	\$335
Galangle	\$2½ @ 5
Glue	\$25
Grapes	\$9 @ 14
Ivory	\$350 @ 750
Kismisa	\$19
Olibanum	\$5 @ 21
Rosa Oil	\$60 @ 175
Saltpetre	\$9 @ 11
Sandal wood	\$27 @ 30
" Oil	\$300 @ 400
Senna Leaves	\$2 @ 9
Sugar Candy	\$13
Vermilion	\$75 @ 81
Wax	\$31 @ 85

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORT.

Per steamer *Preussen*, sailed on 7th December. For Colombo:—21 rolls matting. For Aden:—500 bags sugar, 163 rolls chinaware. For Naples:—100 bales waste silk, 5 cases essential oil. For Genoa:—135 bales raw silk, 20 cases essential oil, 1 case silk. For Antwerp:—140 bales bamboo scraps. For Amsterdam:—109 half-chests tea. For Antwerp or Hamburg:—100 cases bristles, 12 bales feathers, 5 cases human hair. For Bremen:—100 rolls matting, 5 cases bambooware. For Bremen or Hamburg:—126 bales feathers, 8 cases chinaware. For Hamburg:—361 half-chests tea, 60 rolls matting, 55 cases essential oil, 10 cases chinaware, 9 cases feathers, 8 cases tea, 3 bales feathers. For London:—200 rolls mats. For Copenhagen:—250 cases cassia. For Buenos Ayres or Montevideo:—200 packages tea.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 16th December.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11 ¹ / ₁₆
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11 ¹ / ₁₆
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11 ³ / ₁₆
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11 ⁵ / ₁₆
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11 ⁷ / ₁₆
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11 ⁹ / ₁₆
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand	242
Credits 4 months' sight	245 ¹ / ₂
ON GERMANY.—On demand	196 ¹ / ₂
ON NEW YORK.—Bank Bills, on demand	46 ¹ / ₂
Credits, 60 days' sight	47 ¹ / ₂
ON BOMBAY.—Telegraphic Transfer	143 ¹ / ₂
Bank, on demand	143 ¹ / ₂
ON CALCUTTA.—Telegraphic Transfer	143 ¹ / ₂
Bank, on demand	143 ¹ / ₂
ON SHANGHAI.—Bank, at sight	71 ¹ / ₂
Private, 30 days' sight	72 ¹ / ₂
ON YOKOHAMA.—On demand	94 ¹ / ₂
ON MANILA.—On demand	93 ¹ / ₂
ON SINGAPORE.—On demand.....	2 ¹ / ₂ p.c. p.m.
ON BATAVIA.—On demand	115 ¹ / ₂
ON HAIPHONG.—On demand	1 ¹ / ₂ p.c. p.m.
ON SAIGON.—On demand	1 p.c. p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—On demand	60 ¹ / ₂
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate	\$10.30
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tael	\$54.50
GAR SILVER, per oz.	27 ¹ / ₂

SHARE REPORTS.

HONGKONG, 16th December, 1904.—There is but little business to report this week, either of an investing or speculative nature. Rates generally have been adversely affected by the approaching settlements, a threatening tightness of money, and last but not least, the continued advance in the sterling rate of exchange with the consequent inducement to realise stock for remitting purposes. With all our local companies however doing well, and in many cases exceedingly well, it can only be a matter of time before rates improve again.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai have been negotiated at \$715 in fair lots, market closing with probable further buyers at that rate. The London rate has advanced to £70.10. Nationals remain unchanged and without business at \$39 sellers.

MARINE INSURANCE.—Unions have changed hands at \$705 and \$710, closing with probable buyers at the latter rate. China Traders continue quiet with further sales at \$55½. Yangtzes have changed hands at \$150 while North Chinas have receded to Tls. 96.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Remain unchanged with only a small business in Hongkongs at \$335 and Chinas at \$90.

SHIPPING.—Indo-Chinas continue more or less erratic, with sales between \$128 and \$130 for the end of the month; at \$133 and \$134 for March; and \$136 and \$137 for June. The Shanghai rate has ruled fairly steady at Tls. 92, and at one time during the week looked like advancing considerably. Sellers from Hongkong however appear to have checked any advance, and at time of closing shares are offering locally at \$128½ and in Shanghai at Tls. 91½. The London rate has advanced to £12.2s. 6d. Hongkong, Canton and Macao after a small sale at \$29 have declined to \$28½ with sales, closing with sellers at the latter rate. Douglas have declined \$33½ with sales, but are enquired for at that rate. Shells are offering at 25/6.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have further declined to \$228 sellers with little or no cash business. On time a few parcels have changed hands at \$24½ and \$241 for April; at \$253 for August, and at \$255 for September delivery. The temporary weakness is attributable to the approaching settlements. Luzons after further sales at \$21 have been placed at \$20 and \$19, and close with sellers at \$17.

MINING.—Raubs remain on offer at \$4½ without business. There is no business to report under this heading.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks showed a little firmness in the early part of the week, and sales were effected at \$216, \$217 and \$218 cash, market closing at \$217. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves remain quiet and without business at quotation. Farnhams have experienced rather a heavy drop in Shanghai, and our local rates have been proportionately affected. Small local sales have taken place at Tls. 170, 167 and 166, while the rate in Shanghai fell from Tls. 174 to Tls. 163, which last is the closing rate.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have changed hands in small lots at \$148 and more shares are obtainable at the rate. West Points have declined to \$59 sellers without any sales. Hongkong Hotels after sales at the advanced rates of \$142 to \$145 close with sellers at the latter rate. Humphreys continue quiet without change or business.

COTTON MILLS.—With the exception of an advance in Hongkong Cottons to \$13½ buyers, we have nothing to report under this heading.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Borneos, after sales at \$13, are enquired for at \$13½ to \$13¾. China Providents have changed hands at \$9½. Green Islands at \$31 and \$30 and New Watsons at \$12½. Hongkong High Level Tramways have declined to \$280 without sales and in Watkins, sellers replace buyers at \$9½. Powells have advanced to \$12 with buyers.

MEMOS.—Hongkong High Level Tramway Co., ordinary annual general meeting on 23rd instant, transfer books closed from 20th to 26th instant. Humphreys Estate and Finance Co. call of \$7.50 on shares not fully paid up (new issue), due 2nd January, 1905.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & S'hai...	\$125	{ \$715, sales L'don, £70.10s.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$39, sellers
H. Shares	28	\$39, sellers
Foun. Shares...	21	\$10, buyers
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$710
China Traders	\$25	\$58½, sales & sellers
North China	25	Tls. 96, sellers
Yangtze	\$80	\$150, sales
Canton	\$50	\$250, buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335 sales & buyers
China Fire	\$20	\$90, sales & buyers
Steamship Coys.—		
H., Canton and M...	\$15	\$28½, sellers
Indo-China S. N. ...	210	\$128½, sellers
China and Manila...	\$50	\$24, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$33½, buyers
Star Ferry	\$5	\$40, sellers
Star Ferry	\$5	\$30, sellers
Shell Transport and		
Trading Co.	21	25/6, sellers
Do. pref. shares	210	28. 10s.
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$228, sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$17, sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$490
Raubs	18/10d.	\$4½, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	\$217½, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$114, sellers
New Amoy Dock ...	\$61	\$27, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co...	Tls. 100	Tls. 163
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$148, sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$38½, buyers
West Point Building	\$50	\$59, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$145, sellers
Humphreys Estate. ...	\$10	\$12½, sellers
S'hai Land Ins. Co., Ld.	Tls. 50	Tls. 117
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 25, buyers
International ...	Tls. 75	Tls. 20
Laou Kung Mow ...	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 160, sellers
Hongkong	\$10	\$18½, sellers
Companies—		
Alhambra Limited...	\$200	\$100, buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A...	12/6	\$5½
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$40, buyers
China-Borneo Co., Ld.	\$12	\$13½, buyers
China Prov. L. & M...	\$10	\$9½, sales & buyers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$30, buyers
Geo. Fenwick & Co.	\$25	\$45, sellers
Green Island Cement.	\$10	\$30, buyers
Hongkong Electric ...	\$10	\$15, buyers
Hongkong & C. Gas...	\$5	\$9, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways...	210	\$160, buyers
Hongkong Ice	\$100	\$280
Hongkong Rope	\$25	\$255
Hk. Steam Water-	\$50	\$150, buyers
Boat Co., Ld.	\$10	\$20, sellers
Phippine Tobacco		
Trust Co., Ld.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai and Hong-		
kong Dyeing and	\$50	\$50
Cleaning Co., Ld.		
S. C. Morning Post ...	\$25	\$21½, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co...	\$5	\$1.75, sellers
China Light & Power		
Co., Ld.	\$10	\$10, sellers
Steam Laundry Co.,	\$5	\$7
United Asbestos	\$3	\$4, sellers
Do	\$4	\$9½
Watkins, Ld.	\$10	\$180
Watkins, Ld.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$13, sellers
William Powell, Ld...	\$10	\$12½, sales & sellers
		\$12, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co., in their Share Report, dated December 9, state:—Since our last issue rates of principal stocks, viz: Indo-Chinas, and S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ld. have been well maintained, except in the case of Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves, which have sustained a fall of nearly Tls. 10. A subsidence of the Tunkadoo Wharf took place on the 5th inst., but we hear that no very serious damage has been done. In other stocks there is nothing of interest to report. The T.T. rate on London today is 2/8½. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks. No transactions have been reported, but the price in the South has advanced to \$715.

The London quotation is £70. Marine and Fire Insurance.—Yangtze Insurances have changed hands at \$148 and \$150. North China Insurance. There are some shares in the market at Tls. 96. Hongkong Fires have buyers at \$335. China Fires have buyers at \$90. Shipping.—Indo-Chinas. There is no actual change in the rates to report this week. Transactions have been reported at Tls. 92 and 91½ for December 9½ and 94 March, closing steady at quotations. There is one transaction at Tls. 95 April to record. Docks and Wharves.—S. C. Farnham, Boyd & Co., Ld., opened with sales at Tls. 177½, 178, and 176½ for December, Tls. 179 and 178 January, 182½ and 182 March. The price, however, weakened since, and the closing quotations are 173 cash, 174 December and 180 March. There is no news as yet of an interim dividend, nor has any telegram been received from London with regard to the sale of the property since the one we referred to last week. Business in this stock is mostly confined to clearing up outstandings for December settlement. Shanghai and Hongkew Wharf. A serious decline has taken place in rates. Business commenced at Tls. 160 December, but on the news of the damage to the Tunkadoo Wharf the price fell on the 6th inst. to Tls. 155, 152 and 151 December c.n.i. A slightly better tone prevailed the following day when the news that no serious damage had taken place was learnt, and at the close there are buyers at 154 December. The forward market, however, is weak and there are sellers for March at Tls. 155. Sugar Co's.—China Sugars are quoted from the South at \$235 sellers. Luzons.—On orders from the South the price of these shares, which are so little dealt in, has advanced from \$10 to \$15, closing with buyers. We cannot throw any light on the reason for this advance at present. Mining.—Weihaiwei Golds. On the news of the first crushing, which for 1900 tons crushed yielded bullion 87 ounces of gold, 59 silver, and concentrates 79 ounces of gold and 461 silver, the market fell from \$32½ to \$21 sellers, and no shares can be placed at this rate, although nothing lower has been reported. Lands.—Shanghai Lands. A transaction is reported at Tls. 117½. Hongkong Lands have been placed at \$143. Industrial.—Ewo Cottons have changed hands at Tls. 25. Shanghai Gas shares were dealt in at Tls. 105 cash, but a lot of shares which were forced on the market for immediate cash were sold at Tls. 101. There are buyers at this rate. Shanghai Ice Co. Shares have improved to Tls. 19 cash. China Flours are reported at Tls. 175, Maatschappij, &c., in Langkats. A considerable business was done in the early part of the week in this stock at Tls. 290 for cash and December and 305 March, but at the close 287½ was reported for December and for March 303½ and 302½. The market is steady at these quotations. Shanghai Sumatras. A sale is reported at Tls. 65½. Stores and Hotels.—Astor House Hotel Shares have been placed at \$28. Hotel des Colonies at Tls. 20 and 21 December. Miscellaneous.—Telephones were again dealt in at Tls. 68. Loans and Debentures.—Shanghai Land Debentures 5½ per cent. have been placed at Tls. 89 and 91.

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 16th December.—There has been a limited demand for tonnage during past two weeks, and only a few charters put through, principally from Japan to Hongkong. From Saigon to this, 16 and 17 cents per picul might be obtained for a small prompt steamer; to Philippines, 30 cents per picul last; to Java, no demand; to Japan, 40 cents. From Wuhu to Canton, 25 candareens per picul. Hence to Kobe, 30 cents per picul. From north coast Java to this, 25 cents for dry and 30 cents per picul for wet sugar. Coal freights continue firm. From Moji to this, \$2.25 to \$2.30 per ton; to Manila, \$4; to Singapore, \$2.40 per ton. Time charters:—A large number of steamers have been closed in Shanghai at good rates.

The following are the settlements:—

Stanley Toller—Danish steamer, 1,857 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Hopsang—British steamer, 1,359 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Hinsang—British steamer, 1,536 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Orange—Norwegian steamer, 1,001 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.3 per ton.
Ardeva—British steamer, 2,271 tons, Kuchinotzu to Hongkong, \$2.30 per ton.
Elg—Norwegian steamer, 708 tons, Saigon to Manila, 30 cents per picul.
Telemachus—British steamer, 1,340 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 15 cents per picul.

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

- December—
- ARRIVALS.
- 10, Choysang, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 10, Tyr, Norwegian str., from Hongay.
 - 10, Vasco de Gama, Portu. cr., from Shanghai.
 - 11, Changchow, British str., from Taku.
 - 11, Changsha, British str., from Kobe.
 - 11, Chowtai, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 11, Cranley, British str., from Durban.
 - 11, Eastern, British str., from Kobe.
 - 11, Eigra, Norwegian str., from Bangkok.
 - 11, Glenfalloch, British str., from Straits.
 - 11, Haimun, British str., from Swatow.
 - 11, Kiukiang, British str., from Canton.
 - 11, Legaspi, American str., from Manila.
 - 11, Lydia, German str., from Wuhu.
 - 11, Taishan, British str., from Newchwang.
 - 11, Texan, British str., from Moji.
 - 11, Tourane, French str., from Yokohama.
 - 12, Apenrade, German str., from Haiphong.
 - 12, C. Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Haiphong.
 - 12, Dilevara, British trspt., from Singapore.
 - 12, Elax, British str., from Aroe Bay.
 - 12, Hector, British str., from Liverpool.
 - 12, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 12, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 - 12, Loongsang, British str., from Manila.
 - 12, Loosok, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 12, Onda, British str., from Karatsu.
 - 12, Rabi, British str., from Manila.
 - 12, Sheila, British str., from Westport.
 - 12, Tungshing, British str., from Canton.
 - 12, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
 - 13, Ambria, German str., from Hamburg.
 - 13, Arratoon Apcar, Brit. str., from Calcutta.
 - 13, Calchas, British str., from Vladivostok.
 - 13, Doric, British str., from San Francisco.
 - 13, Hunan, British str., from Chefoo.
 - 13, Inkula, British str., from Malta.
 - 13, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 - 13, Kwangtah, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 - 13, Nanchang, British str., from Canton.
 - 13, Sungkiang, British str., from Manila.
 - 13, Tarang, American str., from Yap.
 - 13, Woosung, British str., from Shanghai.
 - 13, Yunnan, British str., from Canton.
 - 14, Benarty, British str., from London.
 - 14, Devawongse, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 14, Dumbaa, French str., from Marseilles.
 - 14, Feiching, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 - 14, Frithjof, Norwegian str., from Tamsui.
 - 14, Hailoong, British str., from Coast Ports.
 - 14, Hangsang, British str., from Canton.
 - 14, Hanoi, French str., from Haiphong.
 - 14, Henry Belokon, Norw. str., from Saigon.
 - 14, Holstein, German str., from Moji.
 - 14, Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
 - 14, Kwangse, British str., from Tientsin.
 - 14, Taksang, British str., from Chefoo.
 - 14, Tartaros, German str., from Kutchinotzu.
 - 14, Themis, Norwegian str., from Kobe.
 - 14, Wosang, British str., from Hankow.
 - 15, Anghin, German str., from Bangkok.
 - 15, Dongola, British str., from New York.
 - 15, Glenogle, British str., from Straits.
- DEPARTURES.
- December—
- 11, Anhui, British str., for Canton.
 - 11, Callao, U.S. gunboat, for Canton.
 - 11, Clara Jebson, German str., for Haiphong.
 - 11, Foochow, British str., for Canton.
 - 11, Gaea, Norwegian str., for Singapore.
 - 11, Helena, U.S. gunboat, for Cavite.
 - 11, Jacob Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
 - 11, Kwongsang, British str., for Shanghai.
 - 11, Longships, British str., for Singapore.
 - 12, Choysang, British str., for Canton.
 - 12, Changsha, British str., for Australia.
 - 12, Hailan, French str., for Hoihow.
 - 12, Hangsang, British str., for Canton.
 - 12, Lydia, German str., for Canton.
 - 12, Palawan, British str., for Yokohama.
 - 12, Prinz Sigismund, Ger. str., for Sydney.
 - 12, Shantung, German str., for Sourabaya.
 - 12, Tyr, Norwegian str., for Canton.
 - 12, Aragonia, German str., for Moji.
 - 13, Glenfalloch, British str., for Amoy.
 - 13, Haimun, British str., for Swatow.
 - 13, Hellas, German str., for Kobe.
 - 13, Hinsang, British str., for Kobe.
 - 13, Juno, American str., for Kobe.
 - 13, Kaifong, British str., for Manila.
 - 13, Liguria, Italian cruiser, for Haiphong.
 - 13, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
 - 13, Paklat, German str., for Swatow.
 - 13, Taishan, British str., for Canton.
 - 13, Tean, British str., for Manila.

- 13, Tourane, French str., for Europe.
- 13, Tungshing, British str., for Swatow.
- 14, Apenrade, German str., for Quinhon.
- 14, Capri, Italian str., for Bombay.
- 14, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
- 14, Dotti, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 14, Eastern, British str., for Australia.
- 14, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., for Vancouver.
- 14, Feoshing, British str., for Wuhu.
- 14, Hector, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Hunan, British str., for Canton.
- 14, Kiukiang, British str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
- 14, Kwangse, British str., for Canton.
- 14, Kwangtah, Chinese str., for Canton.
- 14, Luchs, German gunboat, for Canton.
- 14, M. Rickmers, German str., for Swatow.
- 14, Nanchang, British str., for Ningpo.
- 14, Promise, Norwegian str., for Bangkok.
- 14, Providence, Norwegian str., for Anping.
- 14, Pundua, British str., for Rangoon.
- 14, Sophie Rickmers, Ger. str., for Sourabaya.
- 14, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
- 14, Yatsing, British str., for Wuhu.
- 14, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., for Yokohama.
- 14, Yochow, British str., for Kobe.
- 14, Yunnan, British str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Atlantic, American str., for Saigon.
- 15, Borneo, German str., for Sandakan.
- 15, Dumbaa, French str., for Shanghai.
- 15, Kowloon, German str., for Canton.
- 15, Kumsang, British str., for Calcutta.
- 15, Legaspi, American str., for Manila.
- 15, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
- 15, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
- 15, Vengeance, British battleship, for Amoy.
- 15, Wosang, British str., for Canton.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Palawan* from London, for Hongkong, Mr. and Mrs. Tooker, Mr. and Mrs. Macneill two children and infant, Mrs. Steele and infant, Mrs. Roach, infant and amah, Mrs. Osborne, infant and amah, Mrs. Clegg, Mrs. Thomas and children, Mrs. Conrad and child, Mrs. Flaherty, Miss Bryer, Miss Warwick, Messrs. Lewis, Porterfield, Dutton, Williams, Claydon and Oldham; from Marseilles, Mr. Raby; from Colombo, Miss Ward; from London, for Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Munie and child, Mrs. C. Simpson, child and infant, Mrs. Berner, Mrs. Barkus and infant, Mrs. T. Simpson, Mrs. Plowman and infant, Mrs. Sugden, Mrs. Crockett and child, Miss Bowley, Miss Benson, Messrs. Robertson, Warwick, Burnett, Byth, Marshall, Laver, Perkins, Laing, Evans and Monteith.

Per *Tourane*, for Hongkong, from Yokohama, Miss Bennett, Mr. W. A. Howard, Rev. Father Defrennes, and Rev. Father Favier; from Kobe, Miss Stevens, Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw, Messrs. Toovey, Sakamoto, Uekiama and Matsuda; from Shanghai, Mrs. Glover and family, Mrs. Key and family, Mrs. Stanley, Messrs. Brand, Brulard, Mr. and Mrs. Turner and child, Mr. Vaughan, Mrs. d'Aro, Capt. Cassatt, Mrs. and Miss Wienberg, Mrs. Rozario, Messrs. Ollan and Fotheringham, and Capt. Delnat; for Saigon, from Yokohama, Sister St. Joannis; from Mr. Kristy and Mrs. Gauthier; for Singapore, from Yokohama, Messrs. G. and S. Greenland, Workman, S. and G. Washburn; from Shanghai, Messrs. E. N. Frankel, Abel Tang, Spitzel, Gaboldass, and Conty; for Colombo, from Yokohama, Mr. W. H. Sharp; for Marseilles, from Yokohama, Messrs. A. Kopp, Ascott and Rundle; from Kobe, Mr. Aubert; from Shanghai, Messrs. F. Vin, Heliot, Gimon, Goehring, Richard, Tilken, Charignon, Lebecq and Bouillard, Mrs. Dhuillery and child, Mrs. Mignot and 2 children, and Mr. Drouillet.

Per *Eastern*, from Kobe, Messrs. J. C. L. Fitzpatrick, Jas. Cummings, Steeney, C. Asamo, K. Masuda, H. L. Buzzard, Corkill, Forsyth, Collin, O. Won Kie and E. Kato.

Per *Yawata Maru*, from Melbourne, &c., for Hongkong, Mr. A. Putnam and Miss E. Putnam; for Nagasaki, Mr. T. Nagahisa; for Kobe, Mr. H. Hirano, Mr. and Mrs. T. Nagao, Mr. and Mrs. Y. Iwata and child, Messrs. S. Fukuda and Y. Haseki; for Yokohama, Messrs. T. S. Sator, J. G. Remilly and K. Yamamoto.

Per *Arratoon Apcar*, from Calcutta, &c., Miss Watson, Mrs. Fey and 2 daughters, and Dr. Nalladavos.

Per *Hailoong*, from Coast Ports and Swatow, Mr. and Mrs. Raphael and Mr. E. H. Low.

Per *Doric*, from San Francisco, &c., Rev. B. P. Roach, Miss K. L. Schaeffer, Mrs. J. P. Lowrie, Mrs. E. W. Joy, Mrs. A. P. L. Pease, Mr. A. Kohler, Mrs. W. H. Kalbach, Miss M. Kalbach, Mrs. E. W. Price, Mr. E. M. Abbott, Mrs. W. D. Keyston, Major J. O. Hutchinson, Mrs. F. Harrison, Miss M. B. Shoemaker, Messrs. C. H. Hopkins and Marshall P. Wilder, Capt. J. B. Briggs, U.S.N., Surgeon L. L. von Wedekind, U.S.N., Major W. H. Allaire, U.S.A., Capt. W. M. Whitman, U.S.A., Lieut. J. W. Wilen, U.S.A., Mr. A. L. Scott, Master Scott, Dr. E. Knappe, Messrs. J. J. Kelly and T. D. Robinson, Mrs. H. M. Jones, Messrs. W. T. Page and A. D. Gibbs, Dr. M. K. Gwyn, U.S.M.H.S., Mr. C. McLane, Mrs. H. P. Roach, Messrs. J. P. Lowrie and E. W. Joy, Dr. A. P. L. Pease, Messrs. J. G. Warwick, W. H. Kalbach, L. Kalbach, R. W. Price, J. M. Abbott and W. D. Keyston, Miss A. Keyston, Messrs. F. Harrison and N. Shoemaker, Lieut. Col. N. Johnson, R.A., Hon. Chas. B. Harris, Mrs. Marshall P. Wilder, Lieut. Comdr. J. C. Gillmore, U.S.N., Asst. Paym. T. H. Sanderson, U.S.N., Mrs. W. H. Allaire, Lieut. W. H. Smith, U.S.A., Miss M. C. Brett, Mrs. A. L. Scott, Mrs. Smith, Messrs. R. C. Woods and G. W. Morse, Mrs. T. D. Robinson, Messrs. M. E. Springer, W. F. Barney and A. A. Botelho, Dr. D. G. Beebe, and Mr. C. Maurice.

Per *Dumbaa*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Messrs. Brugnay, Toulange, Tussier, Andap, Whitton, C. E. Leus, and Rev. Lemaire; from Colombo, Mr. Panoff; from Port Said via Singapore, Mr. Paisant; from Singapore, Mr. A. de Mello, Mrs. Omatsu, and Mr. Sakada; from Saigon, Rev. Marullier and Mr. Dae and son; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Messrs. Cordreau, Cazeneuve, Marchand, Mrs. Coriaux and two children, Messrs. Chat, Nicolas, Montaud, Mr. and Mrs. Bochin; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Hechman; from Aden, Mr. Noham Delsizian; from Colombo, Mrs. Panoff and Mr. Klingner; from Singapore, Mr. Beckland; from Saigon, Mrs. Beswetherick, Mrs. Merlet, Mrs. Carmorais, and Mr. Sam; for Kobe, from Marseilles, Mr. Fitz Henry; from Singapore, Messrs. Sigianchi and G. Hari; for Yokohama, from Marseilles, Mr. Carpentier, Mr. and Mrs. Hata and child, Mrs. Clement, and Mr. Bernard; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. S. Campbell; from Singapore, Mr. W. S. Young.

DEPARTED.

Per *Seydlitz*, for Shanghai, Miss Reifsnyder, Miss M. P. Pereira, Messrs. Y. Kemura, P. Brunat, Leopold, W. v. Uffel, Kashiwakama, Paul Reimers, Johnson, Jensen, W. E. Southcott, Rev. G. H. Bonfield, Mr. and Mrs. Plaisant, and Mr. W. Rudenberg; for Nagasaki, Messrs. Morafuji, Kawamoto, Neshigori, Yamasaki and Katawara; for Kobe, Mr. P. H. Smith; for Yokohama, Mrs. Fagner, Mrs. Denvoi, Messrs. V. Reichel, L. Bagnal and Sansakawa.

Per *Tourane*, for Saigon, Mr. F. Ruffo, Mons. Merel, Messrs. Franchy Daniel, Nisbeth, Baldit, and Wilden; for Singapore, Messrs. Leon Menasche, A. Beldan, and J. Gilfillan; for Colombo, Messrs. Charles and Very; for Marseilles, Messrs. Leonel Maria and Alphonse Doire, Frère Adrien, Messrs. H. Johansen, J. M. Amundrod, O. F. Tolosen, F. Le Guen, Carion, Leonel Cliran, and Alexandre Jobon, Mme. Ricco, Messrs. Rhodes, Defois, Bremond, M. Hansen, A. Olsens, O. Iversen, Yannie, and Lahaye.

Per *Empress of Japan*, for Vancouver, &c., Mr. M. T. Buchanan, Lieut. W. E. Cornaby, R.N., Lieut. K. N. Humphreys, Messrs. T. Gabaldon, James Hamilton, C. Young, Surgeon R. J. Mackeown, R.N., Miss B. E. Campbell, Lieut. E. J. G. Hughes, R.N., Lieut. J. S. Furlong, R.N., Messrs. W. J. Webb, J. Campbell, Geo. T. Veitch, J. Whittall, R. Sutherland, G. T. Assomull, A. A. Whibley, T. P. Gleason, Miss Jona Ginnett, and Mr. H. Noble.

Per *Dumbaa*, for Shanghai, Mrs. R. Fisher, Mrs. Jules Danon, Frère Petrus, Frère Eustate, Messrs. Atkinson and Smit, Miss Muller, Mrs. Emilia Sommariva, and Mrs. Tutelman, for Kobe, Mrs. Yamamoto Kami; for Yokohama, Mr. Reni Younes.

Printed and published by BERTRAM AUGUSTUS HALE for the Concerned, at 14, Des Voeux Road Central, City of Victoria, Hongkong. London Office: 131, Fleet Street, E.C.